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INTERIORS





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HOT DESKS
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COMPLIMENTARY
ISSUE 25 JULY/AUGUST 2015

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are made of













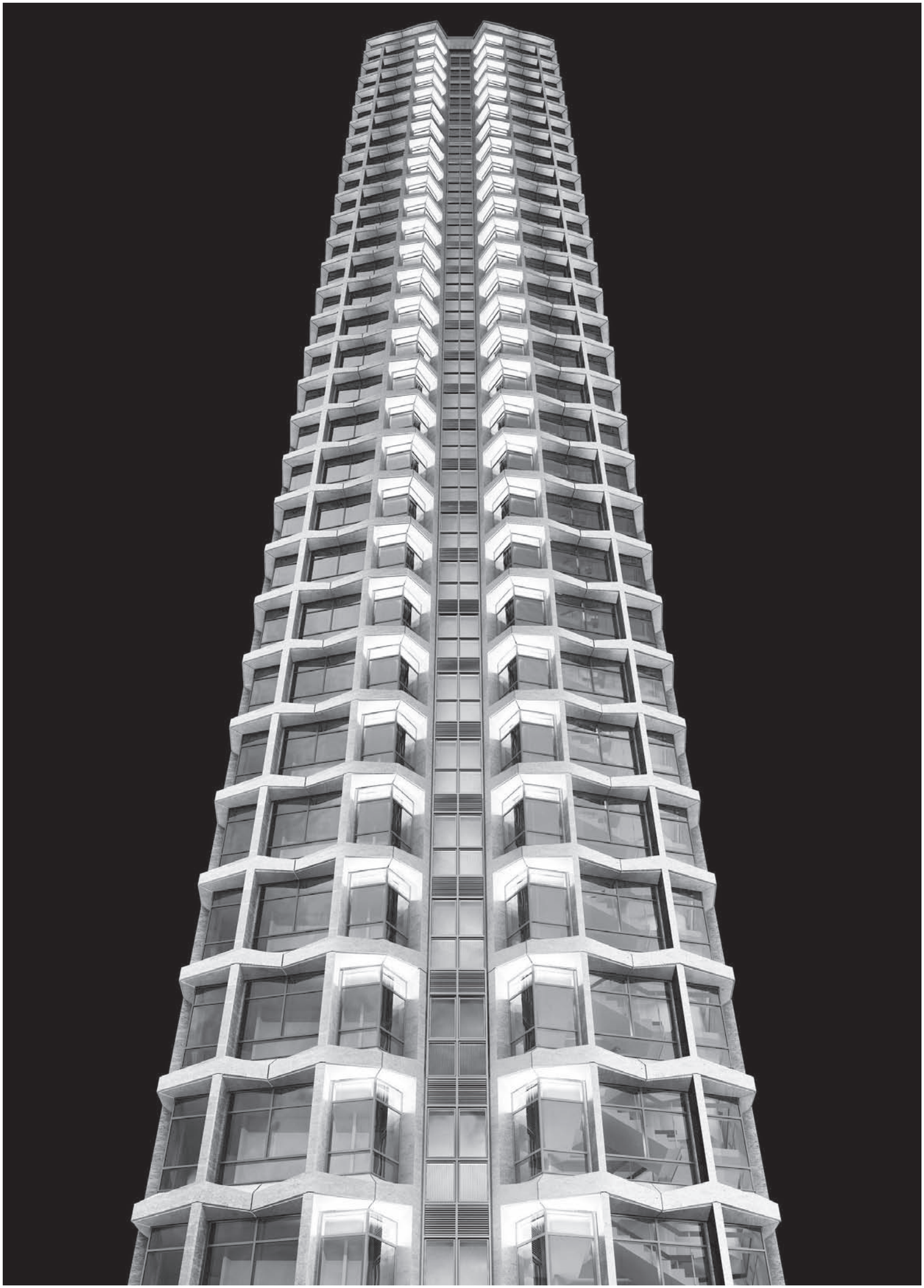








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Abstract bronze sculpture, Dhs1,150, Four Seasons Ramesh Gallery

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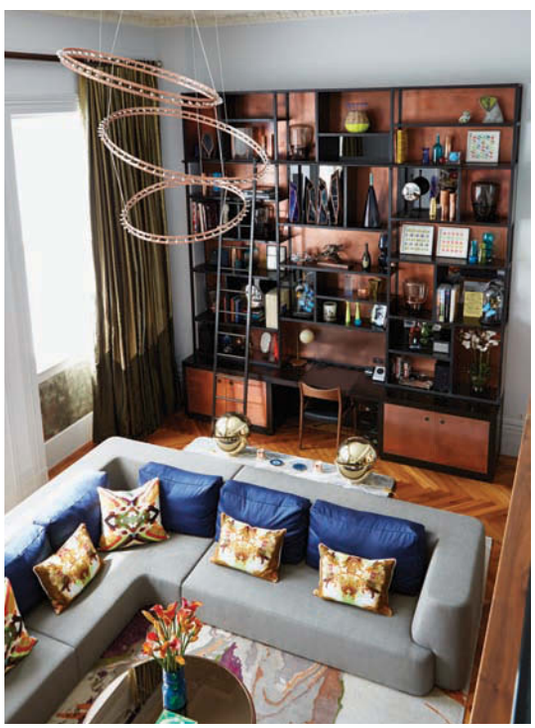
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Cover: Greg Natale, courtesy of Felix Forest

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# EDITOR'S LETTER



There are so many inspiring things to celebrate this summer, with the festivities of Eid al-Fitr bringing friends and family together, savouring quality time with the children revelling in their school break, before jetting off for exotic holidays in cooler climes. In this issue, one of the region's leading design lights, Khalid Shafar, presents his take on Eid celebrations, inviting *Harper's Bazaar* Interiors into a majlis curated with cinematic aplomb. Feeling inspired, our stylists have recreated a modern majlis that combines industrial chic with contemporary Arabesque accents – see the concept become a reality on page 40. Another man who is bringing innovative ideas to the homes of Arabia is our cover star, Australian designer Greg Natales, the champion of geometric prints and textured layering. While pops of pink and collectible artwork create cool vignettes at his Sydney clash-pad (*The Next Big Thing, page 50*), we take a leaf out of Greg's new coffee table tome by tailoring interiors with a spark of adventure; turn to page 46 to see how gorillas and teepees could form the foundation of your own eclectic venturescape. While the hot months ahead present the perfect time to focus on your home, it's also the best season to satiate wanderlust. I've recently returned from a continental fashion fix in Vienna (T*he Capital of Fashion, page 86*), home to a new designer shopping district that's notably inspired Karl Lagerfeld when Chanel based its December Métiers d'art collection on traditional Viennese style. Karl is not alone in his admiration of the Austrian capital – it was recently voted the best place to live in the world by its expat residents. And no wonder, retail therapy always makes me happy. I trust that you'll find plenty to smile about in this summer issue. Read, shop, enoy. ■

Eleanor

ELEANOR JOSLIN, EDITOR

**Eleanor's EDIT**

Sutble hues create a calm refuge; add a bright pop for a spark of fun













**1.** Reverso vases by Sacha Walckhoff, Dhs1,600-1,700, Verreum at Mosaique

**2.** Soft Skin paint, Dhs14 per litre, Jotun

**3.** Watch Me wall clock, Dhs184, Normann Copenhagen

**4.** Robert van Embricqs Rising Chair, Dhs11,277, Bespokeglobal.com

**5.** Ed ring in pink opal, Dhs728, URiBE

**6.** Vince Robot, Dhs780, Zara Home

**7.** Bernadaud Lithophanie Papillons, Dhs280, Tanagra

PRICES APPROXIMATE. ELEANOR WEARS SAFIYYA DRESS, DHS5,570, AND OSCAR DE LA RENTA EARRINGS, DHS1,630, BOTH BOUTIQUE 1, ALEXANDER MCQUEEN WRAPAROUND LEATHER SKULL BRACELET, ELEANOR'S OWN

Chalet Luxe fabric, Dhs625 per square metre, SAHCO

Rainbow swimsuit with gold rings, Dhs438, Sera Ulger London

'Celebrity' orange Fashion for Walls matt paint, Dhs172 per 2.5 litre pot, Crown

MOSCHINO PRE-FALL15

Oren Pillow, Dhs257, Crate and Barrel

# Editor's CHOICE

*Geometric prints create a contemporary glow while russet and ochre spread retro seventies rays*

Volcano painting, oil on linen, Dhs145,718, Maria Luisa Hernandez

Tactility Factory's velvet infused concrete, Dhs4,200 per square metre, Kens & Co

Gypsy earrings, Dhs146,091, De Grisogono

OSCAR DE LA RENTA PRE-FALL15

Aldgate mustard cocktail chair Dhs3,414.50, Florrie + Bill

Casey Tote, Dhs395, Bebe

Confetti vase, Dhs185, Crate and Barrel

Windsor ottoman, Dhs3,702 (plus fabric), Thesofaandchair.co.uk

Bon Ton stilettos, Dhs2,392, Sergio Rossi

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# SUMMER TRIBES

*Create a new world order by mixing ethnic prints from around the globe*

1 *The moody hues of MARSALA and teal set the scene*

SHANGHAI NIGHTS, SAHCO



# 2

*Blends of Indian ikat create a rich TACTILE tapestry*

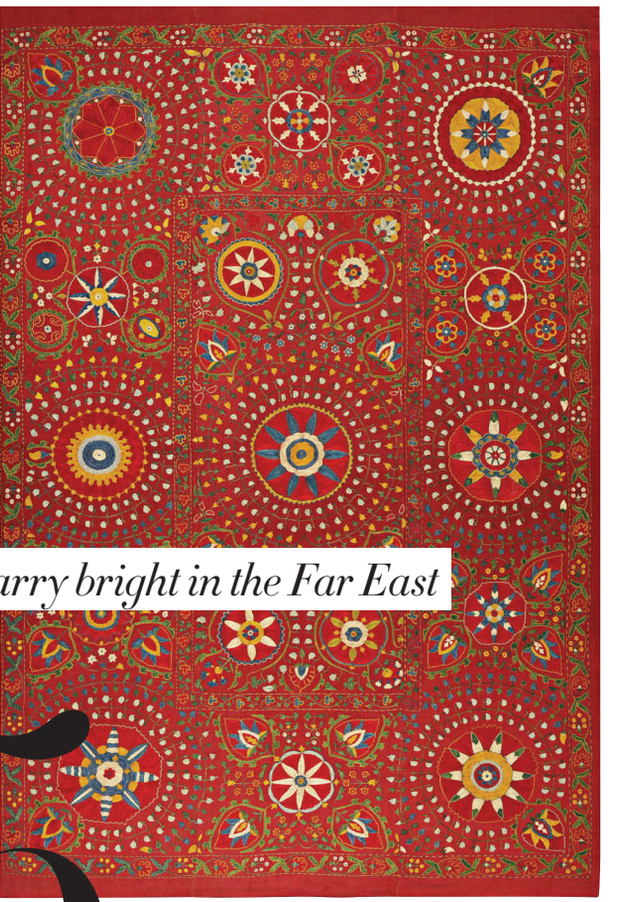
Zoffany Antique Flamestitch wallpaper, Dhs384 per roll; Jacket Pulu, Dhs516 per metre; sofa in Kashgar Velvet, Dhs576 per metre; all Walker Greenbank

*Jewel tones jazz up chinoiserie*



Favorita service plate from Bernardaud, Dhs420, Tanagra

Hand-stitched frame by Orient, Dhs11,456, Cities



# 3 4 5

*Starry bright in the Far East*

*ROCK the croc and MAKE A FUSS for lush velvets*

# 3 6 7



Ethan Koh bespoke armchair, Dhs143,247, Ethan K Home Collection

Agra decorative table lantern, Dhs389, Indigo Living



*Add an AMBIENT glow with the CANDLELIT lanterns of Arabia*



Gio coffee table by Hervé Langlais, Dhs57,752, Galerie Negropontes

*Tarnished METALLIC touches add old world CHARM*

# The HOTTEST



Yastik Cushions, Dhs1,600 each, Nakkash Gallery

## 8

*Blur TURKISH ikat and the colours of the COAST*

## Pick a spot for COOL cobalt blue



Images D'Orient Jeans Coaster, Dhs25, Bloomingdale's Home

## 9

*Flirt with FUSCHIA for a feminine touch*



Asiatides stool, Dhs1,750, Bloomingdales Home

## 10

Whirling Dervish ornament, Dhs420, O'de Rose



## 11

*WHIRL and TWIRL and dance all day, come home and rest and PRAY*

## 12



Voyage Ikat salad bowl, Dhs3,938 Hermes

*Venture on a voyage around the WORLD, bring back TREASURES to have and to hold*

COMPILED BY ELEANOR JOSLIN. PRICES APPROXIMATE



# 13

*Make Med blues the BELLE of the room by layering PLUSH textures*

Pavillon Moire fabric, Dhs1,090 per metre, Dedar

# GOING AU NATUREL

*Mix untreated finishes, rustic woods and sombre tones*

Sylve Lamp, Dhs23,982, Christian Liaigre

Nautilus by Christopher Marley, Dhs2,700, Four Seasons Ramesh Gallery

Viggo Boesen's Fox Chair for Sika Design, Dhs3,550, Comptoir 102

Croccodile Cuff, Dhs2,630, Fendi

Swing Vase, Dhs183, Normann Copenhagen

India Madhavi Smoking/No Smoking ceramic ashtray, Dhs1,100-1,300, Comptoir 102

Izzy Stool, Dhs437, Crate and Barrel

Walnut Cabinet, Dhs33,581, Ginger & Jagger

Bodystuhl Chair, Dhs3,960, Nigel Coates

RALPH LAUREN

DIOR

Vick Vanlian table, Dhs10,652, Cities

Bottega Veneta black suede wedges, Dhs1,025, Theluxurycloset.com

Lemtosh limited edition sunglasses, Dhs1,200-1,350, Moscot

COMPILED BY ELEANOR JOSLIN. PRICES APPROXIMATE

# NEW TALENT

*Queen of the desert, designer* **Talin Hazbar**, *utilises the stones and sand of our land to create her organic pieces*



WORDS BY ELEANOR JOSLIN. HAIR AND MAKEUP BY GEORGINA ALLEN CLARKE. PHOTOGRAPHY BY RICHARD HALL. SHOT ON LOCATION AT BAB AL SHAMS DESERT RESORT & SPA, *MEYDANHOTELS.COM/BABALSHAMS*

Alexander Wang A-line top, Dhs1,215, Raquel Allegra silk pleated skirt, Dhs2,040, Shourouk Pearl Palm necklace, Dhs3,535, all available at Symphony; shell rings, made by Talin

"I have an obsession with sand," laughs architect and designer Talin Hazbar, who solidifies sand to create ethereal sculptures, skeletal candleholders and striking installations. "I have worked with this material since doing my thesis at the American University of Sharjah three years ago, but Tashkeel encouraged me to experiment." Now her stone-made Reconstructed Veins candleholders are being celebrated at the art organisation's *Made in Tashkeel* exhibition in Nad Al Shiba, alongside well known Dubai creatives Ruben Sanchez and Maitha Demithan. "The mountains here have their own energy," says the Syrian-born architect, who also works full time at RMJM. "I am captivated by the landscape in the Emirates and I want to understand the formation of it. I have become fascinated by the texture and formation of the stone's veins, the flakes of sediment on your hand when you touch it. It has also given me the chance to work with manufacturers in the region and to find out more about the history of the landscape." While on one of her research visits to factories in Fujairah she heard the whispers of a folktale about a creature that dwelled in the mountain caves near Nahwa village. Hazbar's candleholders are quarried from the same mountains. "I wanted to translate that tale into a piece where people could relive the story and put their own spin on it," she explains, "because the structure of storytelling is like that – people add to it. When the candles melt they reveal the texture of the stone and celebrate it, but they leave behind their heat, and the wax leaves its imprint, and tells its own story." *Talinhazbar.com* ■



Left: Be desk tidy with Herman Miller's agile Mirra chair, designed by Studio 7.5, and Stem work station with built-in storage. Below: Rock the conference with Wilkhahn's Sola executive chair



# TREND HUNTER

*Success can be designed, says Downtown Dubai's fair director* **Rue Kothari**



As Downtown Design, and indeed the whole Art Dubai Group prepare to move to new offices in Dubai Design District, we are left pondering on the virtues of a healthy, well-designed working environment – one that encourages productivity, connectivity and doesn't leave you with a bad case of 'sick building syndrome'. For those of you who've found themselves dropping off under the evil yellow glare of a strip fluorescent bulb, or frozen solid at your desk by overenthusiastic AC vents overhead, you'll be only too aware of the physical effect your workspace can have on you. And as we plunge headlong into the sizzling summer months and spend more time indoors, we increase our exposure to indoor toxins emitted by pollutants inherent in furniture, and a lack of natural sunlight and fresh air.

Cue innovation. Ergonomically designed furniture, like Todd Bracher's Red Dot-winning Trea Chair designed for Humanscale, not only possesses a slick silhouette but has been sustainably engineered from recycled materials, involves no moving parts, is exceptionally lightweight and, most importantly of all, is designed to fit your body perfectly. And while sitting pretty is undoubtedly the preferred option, the sedentary life has been usurped by the idea that you think more creatively when you're standing up, or even walking while you work. This has been put to the test by Italian designer Michele de Lucchi, who created a futuristic workplace during this year's Salone del Mobile, populated by computers affixed to treadmills. If just reading this has expended too much energy, then sit back down. German brand Wilkahan's ON chair uses kinematic principles to stimulate the body's core muscle groups and joints while you're seated to simulate the effect of walking while you sit.

So, while your sophisticated office chair does its part to keep you fit, how can you boost your body with oxygen to keep those neurons firing? An inexpensive green fix is to subvert science and rely on the bounty of nature instead. There are certain plants that can purify up to 90% of the air around you, ridding it of harmful Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC's) like Formaldahyde and Xylene that are omitted by some furniture. And don't just take my word for it, either; these plants have been tested by Nasa. Try filling your office with Aloe Vera, Spider Plants, Mother in Law's Tongue and Chinese Evergreens – all available at your local plant souk, or even IKEA, for that matter.

Of course, a healthy relationship with your colleagues can contribute heavily to your happiness, ergo your productivity quotient, on a daily basis. If you bring to mind the office of the 1950s, that relationship once had to vault the barriers of decidedly depressing pigeonholes, where workers were doomed to sit, in their little boxes, dreaming of the end of the day. Some of you won't be surprised to note that in many companies this format hasn't changed, but with design solutions like Herman Miller's Metaform Portfolio, a collaboration with Berlin-based Studio 7.5, the idea of how we work best together has evolved. The Metaform is a beautifully crafted modular system that allows each worker to configure their space in a way that suits them best. It's empowerment, sociability and connectedness that makes employees feel comfortable, valued and, above all, happy to come to work every day; a design made in sync with Herman Miller's philosophy: "The most important thing in the room is not the furniture – it's the people."

Of course, if you subscribe to the modern method of the 'anywhere office' and you run a business that can be serviced equally as well from a poolside sunbed, iced tea in hand, then you've cracked it. The ultimate solution for most of us is a working environment that offers complete freedom from the confines of 'the box' – where technology and ideas combine to give us the ideal equation: connectivity + creativity = success. ■



## LUXE LIVING

Alberto Vignatelli, the founder of the Milan-based furnishing company Luxury Living Group, adds his Heritage collection to the premium furniture range at Aati. Heritage glamorously reinterprets classic furniture with sumptuous fabrics and gilded details, for a look that's contemporary yet chic. *+971 4 337 7825*

The Sabrina chaise longue, Dhs160,800, and Smith ottomans, and Dhs33,100, Aati



## A RICH ITALIAN TAPESTRY

It's taken 200 years for the Italian textile company Busatti to arrive on our shores, but it's worth the wait. Still owned and run by the same family, the company continues to operate from Anghiari, a small town where the textile factory was once taken over by Napoleon to create uniforms for his troops. Busatti is known for its rich textile heritage, with individually dyed threads and cotton and linen fabrics woven on traditional 100-year-old looms and finished by hand. The brand will officially launch after the summer; in the meantime contact Busatti for personalised home and business visits. *+971 52 843 0436*

# SHOPPING NEWS

*The latest lowdown from the dynamic world of design*



Sebastian Bergne Dot table, Dhs5,380, and Michael Anastassiades Everything orbs, Dhs1,946 and Dhs2,277, Verreum at Mosaique

## A NEW UNION

You can now find Verreum's gorgeous glassware and metallic accessories in the UAE, with a new and exclusive collaboration launching with Abu Dhabi's design hub Mosaique, in Nation Galleria. *+971 2 665 5144*



Comptoir 102 was last year's winner of the *Harper's Bazaar* Interiors Design Awards

India Mahdavi's Week End tables, Dhs21,000, Comptoir 102

## DUBAI DESIGN WEEK

The city is cementing its status as the world's emerging design capital, with The Dubai Design and Fashion Council (DDFC)'s Urban Majlis announcing the inaugural Dubai Design Week for October 26 to 31. The *Harper's Bazaar* Interiors Design Awards 2015 will take part in the midst of the excitement, on October 28, celebrating designers and brands from across the Emirates. *dubaidesignandfashioncouncil.ae*




Ne'emah Jadis, Dhs330 for 100ml, exclusive to Sephora Middle East

## Bazaar loves...

*Glide along on a mystical journey of intimate memories, sensory beguilement and whispers of Victorian luxuries, with Ne'emah's new fragrance, Jadis (French for nostalgia). This unisex perfume blends soft rose and orange blossom, sweet vanilla, white satin and a fierce hint of musk. Created by Mohammed Ne'emah, the third generation of his craft, his new scent is the height of olfactory perfection.* Sephora-me.com

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# —DESIGN— ICON

*25 years without squeezing lemons*



Juicy Salif in bronze, Dhs6,060, Officina Alessi Top left: Philippe Starck

It's ironic that the most famous lemon squeezer ever designed is notoriously hopeless at squeezing lemons. Not that it needs to, living in New York's MoMA, Paris' Centre Georges Pompidou or as celebrated objet d'arts in discerning collectors' homes all around the world. You might think such an iconic design was months in the making. It was in a way, but not the usual way. Several months after the president of Alessi Spa, Alberto Alessi, approached Philippe Starck to design a new tray, a product that had become a historical part of the company's catalogue since its foundation in 1921, he received a paper napkin in the post, with the first outline of Juicy Salif. While holidaying with his family on the Italian island of Capraia, Starck had been squeezing a lemon over a plate of molluscs and was suddenly inspired by their shells. Alessi emphasises: "I want to underline that, in the end, we should not be concerned by the fact that the inspiration that finally came to the designer was not consistent with the original briefing, as the Juicy Salif went on to become the most controversial citrus squeezer of the 20th century, and remains one of the most playful, intelligent and provocative objects in the Alessi collection." To celebrate its 25th anniversary, Juicy Salif has been reissued in bronze and in aluminium coated in opaque white ceramic, emphasising the citrus squeezer's famous shape. The former is presented by the exclusive Officina Alessi brand in 299 numbered editions. *alessi.com*



The white ceramic edition is Dhs293 from Officina Alessi. Buy the regular Juicy Salif for Dhs320 from Tavola

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Sensory animal masks by prototype finalist Keita Ebidzuka

# THE TECH-SAVVY DESIGNS OF THE FUTURE

*Dubai took innovation to a whole new level at the* **Lexus Design Awards 2015**

Since becoming the Grand Prix winners of this year's Lexus Design Awards, local designers Ivan Parati and Emanuela Corti have heightened our sensory levels of appreciation for high-tech product design. Envisioned to help people with sensory processing disorders, their winning prototype, Sensewear, encourages the therapy or training of various parts of the body to react in a more sensitised way. With humanitarian designs like this no longer confined to sci-fi visions of the future; it's now a matter of who will think of it first – with the UAE resolutely leading the way at April's Lexus Design Awards, held in Milan.

For three years, the world-renowned car manufacturer has been offering aspiring designers, creators and innovators a platform to showcase their forward-thinking creativity. Harnessing the brand's own innovative approach to design and originality, the Lexus Design Awards offers entrants the chance to work alongside world-class designers, who mentor them throughout their respective projects, and gives them the means to have their prototypes developed. Each year, the competition unfolds under the banner of a different theme. For 2015 it was 'Senses' – a facet Lexus itself champions through its own award-winning sensory driving experiences. With a theme that defies such easy categorisation, broad thinking was actively encouraged, and as such, *Harper's Bazaar* Interiors bore witness to all sorts of weird and wonderful design concepts at the show, ranging from the irreverent to the inspiring. While Ivan and Emanuela emerged victorious over three other shortlisted finalists – whittled down from 1171 entries from 72 countries – the runners up were just as inspiring.

From bizarre-looking animal masks to emotional lighting, they drew from their own unique experiences and creativity and applied it to their problem-solving designs. Marina Mellado Mendieta created an ambient light, Luz, to tackle the psychological effects she felt when spending prolonged periods in dark winters or hot summers while living abroad. Finalists Adriano Alfaro, Faiki Nakamori and Gaetano Mirko Vatiero continued with the lighting initiative, going down the sustainable route and creating Diomedeidae, a kinetic lighting sculpture that leverages its own flapping movement to generate electricity and power LED lights. Finally – and undoubtedly the most striking of the finalists' designs – were the animal masks fashioned by Keita Ebidzuka. The collection of designs (including a dolphin, snake and giraffe's head) all offered a medium for humans to channel an animal sense and viewpoint, through a clever means of technological additions. *Lexus-int.com* ■



Right: The tactile fabric of Sensewear, Grand Prix winner of the Lexus Design Awards 2015



Luz light by Marina Mellado Mendieta

COMPILED BY TOM NORTON

# A HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

*Emirati designer* **Khalid Shafar** *invites us into his stunning custom-made majlis, the perfect setting for his family's special Eid celebrations*



Khalid wears casual polo shirt, Dhs1,085, Leather Tab chino, Dhs3,050, Andy Demesure pigna shoes, Dhs6350, all Berluti

With the countless differing opinions that comes with a family project, a home renovation can be a difficult undertaking. However, when the interior designer and family member in charge is one of the most recognised names in Emirati design, Khalid Shafar, it's a different story.

"My family trusts me blindly when it comes to design, even when they ask me to work on their personal spaces," he confides. "Working on this project included making some big decisions and major changes, but I really enjoyed it because I was given the total freedom to renovate and I was able to take as much time as I needed." That timeframe spanned a whole year, and resulted in a contemporay cinematic-style majlis at the villa in Umm Suqeim, where he has lived for 35 years with his parents and three sisters.

The property has witnessed much of Dubai's evolution, from sleepy Emirate to bustling metropolis from its prime vantage point on Jumeirah Beach Road. In keeping with city's ever-changing, increasingly hip landscape, the Shafar's majlis was transformed into a modern, boutique interior, just in time for last year's Eid festivities. Here, Khalid blends 'behind the scenes' set details with residential elements. The exposed ceiling, with trusses and ellipsoidal reflector spotlights, frames the room with an unexpected stage-set theme, while the open arrangement of large olive-green sofas and low coffee tables is more in keeping with Arabian hospitality.



The reception area was formerly two separate rooms with structural columns embedded in the dividing wall that couldn't be removed. Rather than seeing this an an obstacle, he took advantage of this permanent fixture. Showing the scope of his imagination and contemporary flair, he covered the columns with mirror, creating a trompe de l'oeil effect, installed a sound system within, and fixed a projector screen at the top. This creates the coolest spot for

WORDS BY NAUSHEEN NOOR. PHOTOGRAPHY BY ETHAN MANN
STYLING BY JESSICA ROBERTS. CATERING BY QBARA






Top: The Palm, a prototype lamp made from ash, oak or walnut with marble, designed by Khalid. Left: A wooden gazelle sculpture from Global Village and collectible books on design and fashion. Right: The Shafar's custom-made dining room seats 24 for large family gatherings



"WORKING ON THIS PROJECT INCLUDED MAKING SOME MAJOR CHANGES, BUT I REALLY ENJOYED IT BECAUSE I WAS GIVEN THE TOTAL FREEDOM TO RENOVATE"

*Khalid Shafar, designer*

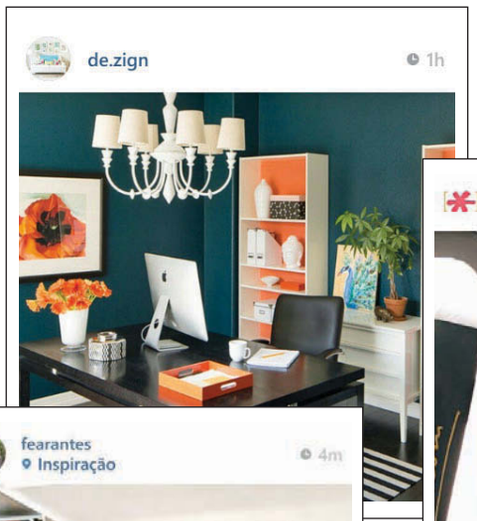




Above: Khalid hosts lavish spreads for friends and family to celebrate Eid al-Fitr. Left: The marble coffee bar Right: Puzzle Collection rug striped with the Burj Khalifa outline, designed by Khalid Shafar and in collaboration with FBMI

movie nights, and his younger sister often has friends over. The striking Italian Grigio marble, mink gray with white veins, runs throughout the living area providing a soothing neutral backdrop to the punches of olive green in the carpet runner and sofas. Khalid's furniture is known for telling stories and this space is no different, he explains: "It is a simple story: good design is timeless and, for me, this is a timeless space." The focal point is a marbled coffee bar that frames artwork of the Burj Khalifa made by his close friend and jewellery designer Nadine Kanso. The piece is sentimental; the rendering of the building, one of Khalid's favourite architectural designs and the muse for his own rugs and fabrics, includes a Polaroid photo of himself, plus pictures of many friends and nostalgic memories. He points out a wooden sculpture of a gazelle, sitting atop a side table, which he purchased from the Iranian pavilion at Global Village. "It is a handcrafted sculpture by a local artisan which, in my opinion, depicts great beauty and perfection," he says.

With a successful design career that sees him as a frequent guest speaker at regional design weeks in Istanbul, Saudi Arabia and Doha, an exhibitor at Milan Design Week and London Design Festival, and his selection as the regional face for skincare company Kiehl's, Khalid still counts the inauguration of his majlis as a major accomplishment. "I held a grand reception for friends and family, and everyone provided very positive feedback about the space, which made the time I spent on it even more fulfilling," he recalls. ■




Left: Orange accents lift Camille's home office. Below: A porcelain book-shaped vase from S*uce blends in







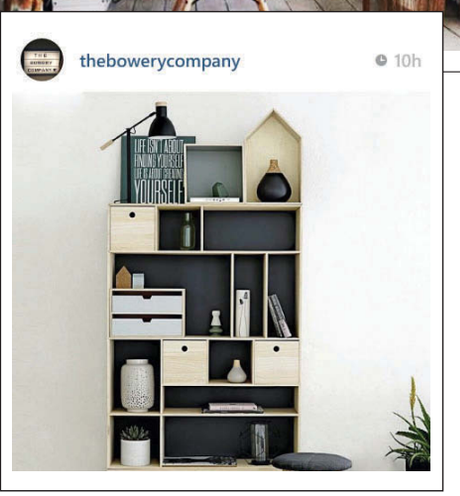



Above: Architect Fernanda Arantes' cheerful home office. Right: A minimal, industrial desk designed for small spaces




# INSTA LIFE

*This issue we explore the Instaworld's most unique collectibles. Discover and admire...*



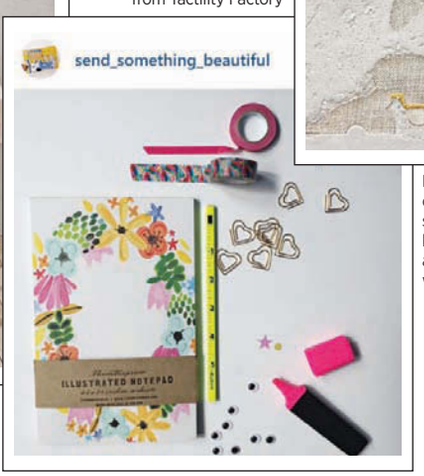

Above top: A gallery wall fosters creativity for Design and the City
Above: Matte-black shelf backing makes a sleek display from The Bowery Company



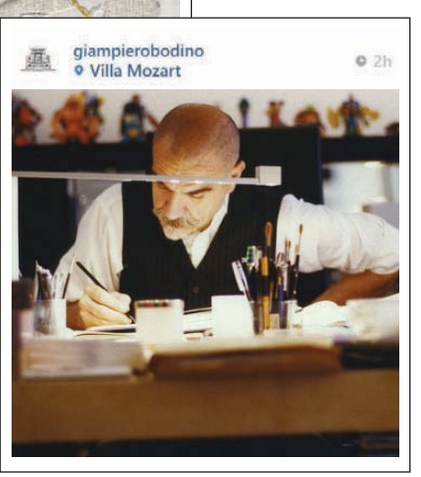

Right: Marie Laurent Architecture is a fan of decorative concrete surfaces from Tactility Factory




Above: Work Scandi-chic with this blonde and black wood desk and Hans Wegner's classic Wishbone chair




Left: Neon office supplies brighten a dull workday




Above: Giampiero Bodino in the midst of designing a new item of jewellery at his study in Milan

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# GENTLE BLOSSOMS

*Petal power takes on a folksy feel with pretty illustrations*



About Flowers fabric, Dhs980 per metre, Dedar



Prairie dinner plate, Dhs87, Vista Alegre



Tracy Vase, Dhs399, Indigo Living




Rose Privée eau de parfum, from Dhs450, Penhaligon's



The Leaf suspension lamp, Dhs36,518, Ginger & Jagger



EMPORIO ARMANI PRE-FALL15



Language of Flowers 'Love' watch, Dhs240,800, Van Cleef & Arpels



Tony Wais armchair, Dhs2,250, Nakkash Gallery



Rosenthal Porcelain Le Jardin de Versace plate, AED1,310, Tanagra



CHANEL PRE-FALL15



Minale Maeda Transience rug, Dhs97,231, Nodus



Des Pots Vase Deco, Dhs966, Cities



Churchill, Dhs51,649, And So To Bed



Emerald bangle in 18-carat white gold, Dhs88,000, Liali

COMPILED BY NAUSHEEN NOOR. PRICES APPROXIMATE



Kamelia in her award-winning garden in London

# ISLAM BLOSSOMS ABROAD

*The Emirates' first landscape architect to grace the prestigous RHS Chelsea Flower Show,* **Kamelia Bin Zaal,** *creates an award-winning garden*

*Words by PRATYUSH SARUP*



"THIS WAS A CHANCE TO SHOW THE WORLD THAT ISLAM AND ARABIC CULTURE SHARE THE SAME VALUES AND MORALS AS OTHER RELIGIONS AND CULTURES"

*Kamelia Bin Zaal, landscape architect*

Carved into a majestic white marble water wall, scripture from the *Holy Qu'ran*, Surah Sad: Verse 50 – 'The gates of the Garden of Eden will open up to them' – greets visitors to Kamelia's serene garden, The Beauty of Islam, which won London's RHS Chelsea Flower Show's esteemed Silver Gilt award in May. The mix of poetry, calligraphy, indigenous Gulf fauna and textures gave those strolling through the opportunity to explore the relationship between Mother Nature and humankind, which is prominent in Islamic culture.

This is the first time an Emirati has been invited to showcase their work at the exclusive show, since its inception in 1913. Back in Dubai, Kamelia has an impressive landscaping portfolio, one that encourages verdant beauty to grow in the harsh desertscape of the UAE. As well as being the creative director at Al Barari, her father's visionary eco-friendly residential development and sponsor of her latest horticultural endeavour, she is the founder of Second Nature, which has led to her designing the landscapes of many luxurious properties, including those on Nurai Island, Abu Dhabi, and Dubai's Palm Jumeirah.

"I wanted to create a space that would have a positive impact on people's perception of Islam," she says. "More importantly, it was the chance to show the world that Islam and Arabic culture share the same values and morals as other religions and cultures." Designed to take you on a





culture and Islam. A magnificent stainless steel sculpture that reads 'Ullah' anoints the central water feature while a hand-picked selection of flora native to the Arabian Peninsula – including orange citrus, lavender, papyrus, and Kamelia's favourite, the Bismarckia nobilis – play on shade and light conventionally found in Islamic gardens, evoking a sense of serene refuge.

Discussing her vocation, Kamelia tips her hat to her father, Zaal Mohammed Zaal, who encouraged her love for nature. "I grew up watching my father working in the garden," says the designer. "He has always loved flowers and the sense of peace a little patch of green can give. Discussing the conceptual planning of Al Barari in the early 2000s inspired me to enrol at the Inchbald School of Design in London to study garden design in 2003."

Back to her drawing board in Dubai, she is busy putting the finishing touches to the landscape designs for phase two of the forward-thinking development, known locally as the eco billionaire's row. "I'm planning to recreate The Beauty of Islam in this secondary phase," she reveals. "I would love to give people here a space of calm and beauty, somewhere they can find a contemplative moment or two." ■

**MOVING IN**

**There were 15 entrants to the 'Show garden' category at the Royal Horticultural Society event. Gold was awarded to The Laurent-Perrier Chatsworth Garden designed by Brit Dan Pearson. The garden represents a beautiful segment of the sprawling 105-acre Chatsworth Garden, the estate of the duke and duchess of Devonshire.**

contemporary, atmospheric voyage across the Arabic spice route, The Beauty of Islam is an ode to His Highness Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan, the late President of the UAE, and his love for nature and his people. Carved into marble and beautifully set against the sombre green of an olive hedge, the poem *Flock of Meanings* – penned by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, deputy prime minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, in honour of His Highness Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan – runs across the length of the garden.

"The ancient Spice Route of the Arabic empire finds its way through the mélange of scents and colours," she explains. "Fig and citrus trees punctuate the design with bewitching intensity, while a haze of scents emanating from the ginger, rosemary, coffee and cardamom plants represent the rich diversity of horticulture from our region."

Breaking away from the traditional Islamic courtyard quadrant, Kamelia set her layout at a 45-degree angle, incorporating classical Islamic iconography, such as the eight-point star, the Khatim, in both modern and traditional materials originating from countries touched by Arab



A verdant Mediterranean-themed garden Kamelia designed for Al Barari



Home workin': Utilise a vacant wall space with a simple desk, a stack of books and a floor lamp; The Sofa & Chair Company

COMPILED BY ELEANOR JOSLIN AND NICKY MUDIE. IMAGES SUPPLIED



Harper's
BAZAAR
WORK/REST/PLAY

# HOT DESKING

*Interior designer* **Nicky Mudie** *makes home office spots that rock*



Violet & George creates a well-lit corner for reading Below: a pull-out book rest from Rupert Bevan Ltd

**LUXE LIBRARY**

The perfect place for collectibles to sit next to readables

# A SPOT OF READING

## It's not about the books, it's about the display...

Adding a library brings a luxurious touch to your home, whether it is a small reading nook where you can unwind, or a comfortable space that has an alter ego as an elegant room to entertain guests, away from dirty plates in the dining room or cleaning clatter in the kitchen. A good sized library presents the perfect opportunity to inject old features into a home, such as a classic Chesterfield leather sofa, a feature fireplace and a wooden ladder propped against the bookshelves. You can be creative with ambient lighting, building an authentic library atmosphere where dimmed lights create cosy corners. Back lighting along the shelves will add drama, too. One project we worked on involved filling a double-height space in a living room with oversized furniture to make it feel more homely. We commissioned London-based furniture designer Rupert Bevan to co-design a huge bookcase, which tied the living space to the mezzanine above, where there was a kids' study. A palette of iron, smoked oak and polished copper was specified by Violet & George after visiting London's Decorex design show with our client. The vast shelves took a long time to fill with colourful butterflies, sculptures, books, vases and objet d'art sourced from vintage stores, combined with items from the family's own collections so the vignette didn't look too contrived. A great tip for working a library into small spaces is to add shelving around a doorway which can host a collection of books. Intersperse them with photos, art and sculptures to make the overall look less imposing and to give a sense of depth to the walls behind the bookcase. While it can take hours to create the right display, the end result makes the bookshelves themselves become pieces of art. ➤






A crisp white Zeffirelli chair and stool from Ochre contrast with the rainbow of books



# CLEVER HOME OFFICES

## Be smart and make the most of empty wall space and discreet nooks

More and more, our clients are requesting workspaces to be designed in their homes, especially since companies are becoming more flexible with employee working hours. There are plenty of clever spaces where you can create a workspace; underneath the stairs in a large hallway is a great area for an ad-hoc work station. Help the space look less cluttered by disguising the desk behind doors so you can shut the clutter away when it's not in use. Plenty of good storage is also key in these kinds of small spaces, to give the illusion of tidiness and a sense of space. If you have a spare room dedicated for office work, symmetry helps to create a relaxing, stress-free environment. Installing a large magnetic board will help to plan and prioritise your workload. There are a variety of great products on the market and one of our favourites is a magnetic, wipe-down wallpaper from MagScapes that is perfect for planning. Office design also centres on the equipment you use, and we prefer Apple computers because you don't need to disguise the hard drive, which will give you much more flexibility. For those who simply need a spot to answer emails and organise general house admin, a clever way to incorporate a workstation easily is to utilise a vacant wall in a large kitchen, living room or spacious entrance hall with a fold-down desk and light fixtures. ➤

"CREATING A HOMEWORK AREA ON A MEZZANINE THAT OVERLOOKS THE LIVING ROOM IS A POPULAR IDEA WITH PARENTS; THEY CAN KEEP A WATCHFUL EYE WHILE THE KIDS HAVE THEIR OWN SPACE"

*Nicky Mudie, interior designer*




This decorative wall unit designed by Rupert Bevan Ltd for Violet & George's London project doubles up as a desk

"HAVING JUST ENOUGH STORAGE INSTILS THE VALUES OF TIDINESS AT A YOUNG AGE – WHILE TOO MUCH DRAWER SPACE WILL BECOME HIDEY-HOLES FOR ALL THE CLUTTER CHILDREN CAN ACCUMULATE."

*Nicky Mudie, interior designer*



## HOMEWORK IS CHILD'S PLAY

Little learners will find studying fun with interactive office features

Creating a homework area on a mezzanine that overlooks the living room is a popular idea with parents. This allows them to keep a watchful eye on children whilst removing the element of direct supervision, and giving kids their own space in which to do their schoolwork. We created one such area for a father of four in London, who asked us to create a fun environment where he could enjoy quality time with his family. The project was focused upon the children and play, while also being practical and encouraging their studies – adult space was actually secondary in importance. A clever way to inspire learning is to find ways to interact with your children. We covered the desk wall in a wipeable magnetic wallpaper so the kids could unleash their creative side with magnets and marker pens – going so far as to create maps of the world. We also like covering corkboards with colourful felt so children can hang their pictures, drawings and photos – ones that haven't found a place on the fridge [yet]. While all this was fun and interactive, adding a plain white desk to the space instantly turned it into a studious zone and also encouraged the kids to keep it clean. Having just enough storage will also instil the values of tidiness at a young age – while too much drawer space will just become hidey-holes for all the clutter children can accumulate. Ultra comfortable seating like oversized bean bags will encourage children to sit down with a book and read. ■

Nicky uses colourful shelving and magnetic walls to encourage kids to learn at home
Right: Colombini Casa creates a versatile room for sleep and studies



NICKY MUDIE IS THE FOUNDER AND CREATIVE DIRECTOR OF VIOLET & GEORGE. RUPERT BEVAN IS THE FOUNDER OF RUPERT BEVAN LTD

## THE FINISHING TOUCHES...

Rupert Bevan reveals his top tips to make your home office work for you

- **The aesthetics for home study areas are critical as you don't want it to look like a conventional office. So the appearance must not be too utilitarian; while still being functional and practical as a work space it must also be a comfortable and attractive place to spend time**
- **To convert small rooms into a home office, smart storage and metamorphic solutions work the best. Consider a fold-down desk rather than a stand-alone one, or extendable shelving**
- **Colours should be fairly neutral and finishes on furniture and joinery should blend in with those on the walls**
- **Our popular 'contemporary study desk' is a brilliantly simple design, with clean lines, a single drawer for storage and no fussiness. It works well in a minimalist space, perfect for an individual who is naturally tidy, while helping those who aren't to be more organised**
- **It's important to consider the durability of a library unit's finish; unless the bookshelves are for decoration only, you want a finish that wears well. Timber- or leather-wrapped are good options, and metal detailing looks great, rather than high-gloss lacquer**
- **Lighting is essential, but make sure it accentuates rather than detracts from the library wall. Consider where the light is coming from, as this makes a big impact on how easy a room is to work in**



White sofas, drapes and wallpaper, designer by Sedar, exlcusive for *Harper's Bazaar* Interiors

# THE MAJLIS REINVENTED

*Harper's Bazaar Interiors gives the traditional majlis set-up a modern makeover for the mod-gen Muslim*



SHOT ON LOCATION AT MEDIA ONE HOTEL, IN COLLABORATION WITH SEDAR, EXCLUSIVELY FOR HARPER'S BAZAAR INTERIORS

*Compiled by ELEANOR JOSLIN*
*Styling by TORY WALLER*
*Photography by PAUL ROBIDA*

# FUSE OLD-WORLD AND NEW-WAVE FOR TIMELESS APPEAL

**Nahel Selo**, *creative director at Sedar, rocks industrial-chic*



Mother of pearl side table, Dhs4650, O'de Rose; Bubbles 'Firdaus' bowl, Dhs151, Silsal Design House

"THERE IS NOTHING MORE BEAUTIFUL THAN ADDING A MODERN TWIST TO A SETTING THAT IS TYPICALLY RICH IN HISTORY"

*Samar A Habayeb, Silsal Design House*

It is important that the majlis regains a modern aesthetic because it has always been a part of the culture of the Middle East, and should be upheld and passed on, generation to generation. If you look back through the centuries, almost every Arabian household had a majlis.

It is not unusual for the younger generation to have a majlis incorporated into their interiors. Because there is so much authenticity and heritage in the majlis, many are proud to continue this tradition while keeping up with modern trends. Nowadays, we are trying to find our uniqueness and individuality; some find this is best achieved by combining both worlds of the modern and traditional styles. Traditional majlis sets usually involve gold, silver and red colourings, wooden carvings on the ceilings, Arabesque geometry and Islamic patterns on surfaces such as rugs and wallpaper.

However, these days we tend to make the majlis look and feel more like a living room, with neutral, calm colours and fun accents added in terms of accessories. Calligraphic patterns and shapes are popular and are instantly culturally emblematic, and a vintage backgammon board propped on the couch can be an objet d'art just as much as it is a sociable game. Even so, the concept of a modern majlis is quite rare – because many people aren't sure how to design this aesthetic, and many suppliers tend to favour traditional styles that have worked in the past and are popular with an older clientele.

With the industrial-chic majlis Sedar designed for *Harper's Bazaar* Interiors, we started with a neutral base with sectional couches upholstered with a plain, off-white fabric instead of the traditional red, purple and gold schemes, and added accents of silver cushions for definition. When creating a contemporary scheme, you don't want to overdo it with layers of colour, which is very traditional but you also want to be a little brave with the palette. The more subtle the scheme is, the more attractive it will be. If you have a small area, it's wise to go for light colours to give the illusion of space. Being able to fuse together a modern aesthetic with a traditional ambience will create an appealing and timeless look for the modern generation. ➤

## SAVVY STYLING TIPS

1. Light colours and metallics will give the space a more open, inviting feel
2. Group side tables in clusters of three
3. Raise your drapes all the way to the ceiling to give the illusion of more space
4. Use predominantly rounded shapes but have one piece of contrasting sharpness
5. Be brave and don't be scared to add accent colours or decorative furniture



Gold 'Allah' vase, Dhs2,700, Mosaique; Bloomingville lamp, Dhs4,065, S*uce; Ghida's Wooden Tripod Tables, Dhs808-1,028, Silsal Design House; Kilim #16 (left) and Kilim #17 (right) by Taher Asad Bakhtiari, Dhs16,528 each, Carwan Gallery

"IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THE MAJLIS REGAINS A MODERN AESTHETIC BECAUSE IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN A PART OF THE CULTURE IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND IT SHOULD BE UPHELD"

*Nahel Selo, Sedar*



Black 'Allah' vase, Dhs2,350, Mosaique; Kilim #7 by Taher Asad-Bakhtiari, Dhs10,100, Carwan Gallery; Eclectic by Tom Dixon candleholders, set of three, Dhs540, S*uce; Arabic Caligraphy by Orient 499, Dhs3,590, and Orient 499 and Nada Debs backgammon sets, both Cities

# A MODERN TWIST IS KEY FOR AN OFFLINE GENERATION X

**Samar A Habayeb**, *CEO of Silsal Design House, mixes Scandi with Arabic*

While the concept of a majlis is still very much alive amongst people in their twenties and thirties, the need to have one at home is on the decline. Today's millennial generation takes advantage of the public majlis areas widely available in hotels and shisha bars, organising business meetings, relaxing with a Turkish coffee, and socialising with friends. It's also common to meet with cousins and extended family members at an aunt's house, for example, who may have a more traditional majlis set up.

Traditionally, a majlis is an outdoor tent made of ornate material, with colourful oriental mattresses and floor pillows layered around its interior to form seating areas. In some cases the pillows and mattresses are elevated on a wooden stand. Oriental and handmade rugs – made of sheep or camel wool – typically cover the floors, and side tables are scattered around the room. Tripod tables and side tables scattered around will give guests easy access to drinks and snacks, while at the same time preserving the feel of an open and welcoming space.

Today, many homes across the Emirates have a built-in majlis, located at the front of the house to greet and entertain guests. Although we are seeing some modern touches, such as lighter colours and contemporary decorative accessories, there has not been a major shift in mainstream design for the average Gulf consumer. This could be because traditional arrangements have such high levels of comfort and openness of space. They are typically simple yet effective ways to bring people together. There is also the desire to hold on to a tradition that has had such a positive impact on the development of the UAE.

Mobile social media is certainly impacting our social competency, and we must strive to uphold such traditions to bring people together in an offline setting – to socialise, discuss ideas and create opportunities. I believe that there is nothing more beautiful than adding a modern twist to a setting that is typically rich in history, without compromising its character.

To realise this, accessibility is key. In terms of home design, modern furniture and home accessories need to be more readily available to Generation X, and in this case it's as much about quantity as it is quality; large majlis arrangements need multiples of furniture and accessories, such as side tables and decorative serving bowls, to create symmetrical vignettes. I would recommend keeping the setting simple and serene. Mix and match with materials and styles. For example, use wooden tripod tables to ground a solid feel to the room, and add perspex trays with colourful Arabic calligraphy to add an edge of quirk and inspiration.

I am in the process of designing my own majlis, which will be a modern and enchanting area that offers our guests a place to converse and exchange ideas. Our majlis will bring together a mix of Arabesque and Scandinavian influences, blending the minimalism and pure functionality of Scandinavian design with the beauty of Arabic calligraphy, geometric patterns, floral motifs and other Middle Eastern influences, such as fretwork and the Islamic star. The colour palette will be pastel, to create a gentle glow to the room while emanating a cool ambience, which is important in countries like the UAE. ■



Below: Silver cushions, exclusive for *Harper's Bazaar* Interiors, Sedar; Jaipur With Love metallic woven rug, Dhs900, S*uce; coasters, set of four, Dhs53, Lakeland; Arabic coffee cups, Dhs40, Silsal Design House. Inset: Randa shisha, Dhs2,020, O'de Rose

# PRESS PAUSE PRESS PLAY

*It's game on with these playful ideas that will help you switch off, have fun, relax and reverberate with ideas*



## KING OF THE JUNGLE

Designer Stéphanie Coutas was tasked with revamping this suburban Paris family home in Neuilly-sur-Seine. Here contemporary art meets pleasant elegance. Her challenge was to create an innovative narrative centred on her client's extensive contemporary art collection. The result is a roaring success, establishing a strong artistic statement in this otherwise quiet and unassuming space. The angry blue gorilla, made of resin and fibreglass, is a limited edition piece by French company, MiO. *Stephaniecoutas.com*

IMAGES SUPPLIED
TOP RIGHT: PHOTOGRAPHY BY GREY



Stripes on the ceiling accentuate the circus-tent feel of this unconventional room by Jeff Andrews Design

*Best for* INTREPID SOULS

## THE SOUND OF ADVENTURE

Jeff Andrews designed this kid-friendly music room for Kourtney Kardashian, where her little one's imaginations can run wild. The black and white stripes on the walls and ceiling resemble the inside of a circus tent where pint-sized performers can leap from one piece of statement furniture to the next, play cowboys and Indians in the teepee, or tinkle the ivories on the miniature hot pink baby grand piano. The upholstered Bergère chairs and vintage-inspired Lumiere ceiling fixture by Jean de Merry add an unexpected touch of elegance while keeping things adult and contemporary.

*jeffandrews-design.com*

## HOBBY CORNER

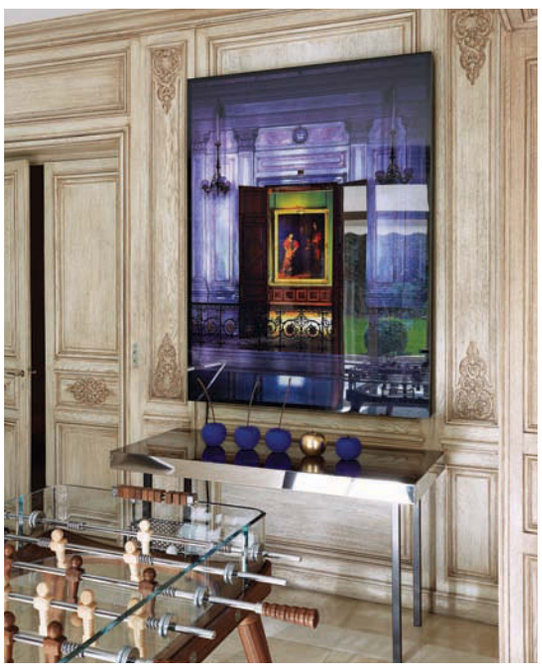
With our increasingly demanding schedules, carving out the time for a hobby is not only a luxury, but also an essential way to cope with modern-day stresses. Whether you're an avid art aficionado, have a cool miniature (or life-size) car collection, draw in your spare time, are musically inspired or you've taken up floristry, every hobby deserves a spot in your home to encourage creativity and help recharge your batteries. The spare room can be transformed into an inspiring place, showcasing the activities that give you pleasure, or take advantage of a vacant maid's room – it's the perfect size for a hobby haven devoted entirely to 'you'.

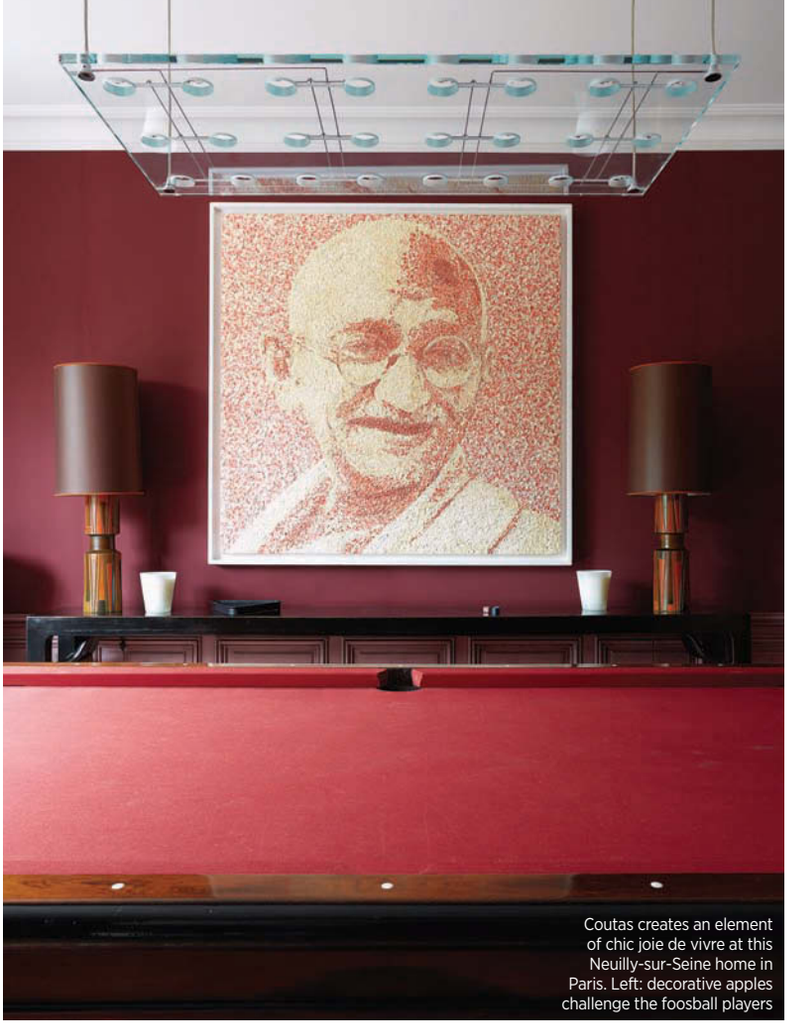


Wooden benches and wicker baskets keep flowers neatly arranged. Crate and Barrel

## GAME ON

Stéphanie Coutas continues to have fun at the Neuilly-sur-Seine project, combining elegant craftsmanship with recreational pleasures. The carefully honed wooden foosball table appeals to the owner's boyish and artistic sides, with a Plexiglas 'field' putting an elegant spin on this bachelor-pad staple. Create art installations with playthings of your youth a la Coutas by wheeling vintage motorbikes under the stairs, propping bespoke bicycles in the corner, displaying cricket bats and balls behind a glass cabinet, standing a vintage sewing machine on top of the piano, or framing music sheets on the wall. These items evoke nostalgia while making a definitively quirky statement.





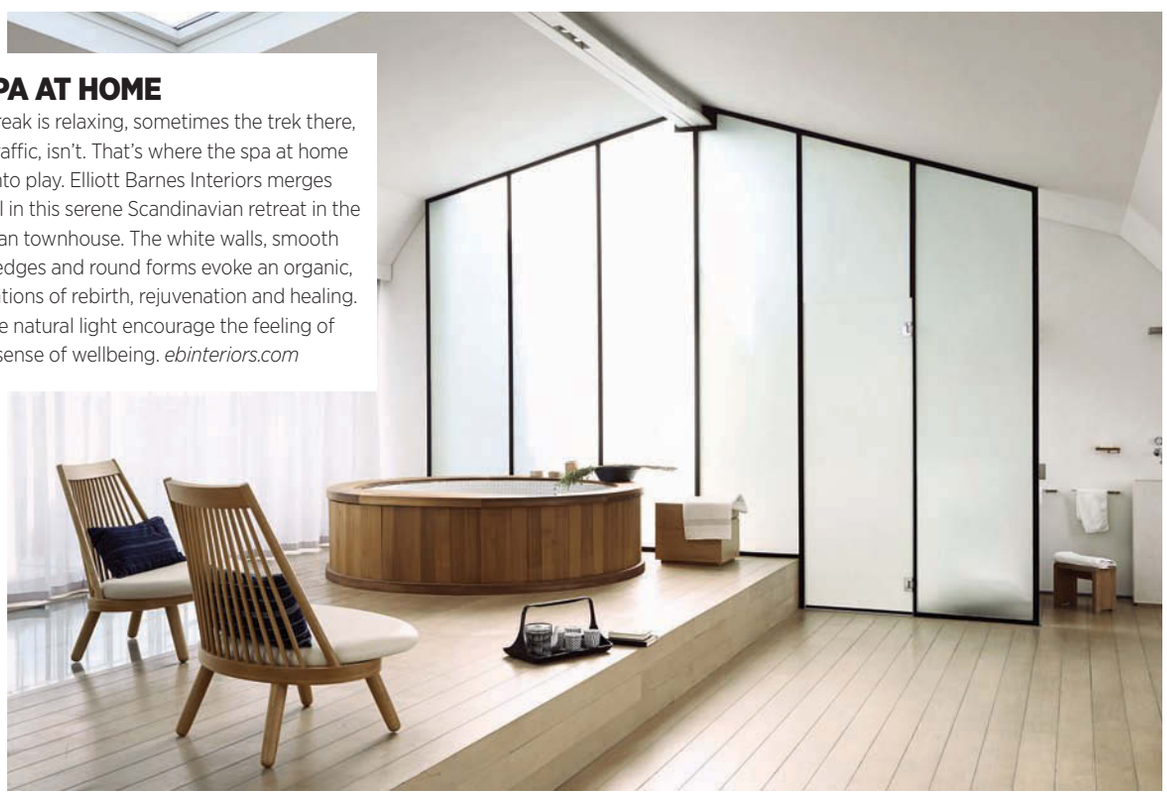
Coutas creates an element of chic joie de vivre at this Neuilly-sur-Seine home in Paris. Left: decorative apples challenge the foosball players

## THE COLOUR THEORY OF EVERYTHING

With Ghandi smiling down over the break, players couldn't help but feel like they're about to embark on a winning streak. Here, the red tones of the inspiring artwork, the rich marsala of the walls, the crimson felt of the snooker table, and the dark wood panelling – a traditional feature of a games room – are playfully reminiscent of American Abstract Expressionist Mark Rothko, for whom blurred blocks of colour possessed their own life force. Experiment with your own colour 'muiltiforms' and you may also experience a spiritual 'breath of life'... or perhaps just an appreciation of monochromatic schemes.

## SPA AT HOME

While the idea of a spa break is relaxing, sometimes the trek there, through heat and high traffic, isn't. That's where the spa at home phenomenon comes into play. Elliott Barnes Interiors merges hospitality with residential in this serene Scandinavian retreat in the heart of a private Parisian townhouse. The white walls, smooth blonde woods, bevelled edges and round forms evoke an organic, natural aura with connotations of rebirth, rejuvenation and healing. High ceilings and ample natural light encourage the feeling of space and aid the sense of wellbeing. *ebinteriors.com*





*Best for*
OUTSIDE
THE BOX

## A DIFFERENT VIEW

With home technology becoming increasingly streamlined and subtle, even the stalwart of focal points – the TV – is taking a step back from centre stage. Wall cavities, mirrored screens and 'fake' pictures are helping to camouflage the TV that we love to look at, but only when it's on. Sonance's Invisible Series also hides the surround sound in strategic locations, embedding it behind the wall without diffusing the sound. Soon, even speakers could become a novelty. *infinitetechnologies.com*



**Bazaar loves...** *In contrast to the camouflaged technology Sonance champions, Bang & Olufsen celebrates the form and function of home audio. The new Beolit 15 brings a beautiful aesthetic to sound, while 360 technology and heightened connectivity are packed inside.* beoplay.com



Greg Natale in his bespoke kitchen, wearing Saint Laurent denim shirt, jeans and black leather espadrilles

Harper's BAZAAR
A FASHIONABLE LIFE



# THE NEXT BIG THING

*How Australia's top interior designer* **Greg Natale** *is taking on the world*

*Words by ELEANOR JOSLIN*
*Photography by FELIX FOREST*

Dubbed the Jonathan Adler of Australia, Greg Natale is a big deal. So why is his home in Darlinghurst, Sydney, what one would politely call cosy? It's always interesting to meet an interior designer with a relatively small home, because that size is out of choice, not necessity. So, what then drew him to choose this apartment, in this building?

"I remember when it was being built in the '90s and I said it was my dream to live there – so, here I am," he says, of The Horizon Apartments designed by Harry Seidler, one of Australia's greatest architects. He takes a moment to gaze out from the building's famous scalloped balcony, enjoying the panoramic view of the harbour, towards Sydney Opera House and Harbour Bridge. A decade earlier he'd had a similar heartfelt vision about interior design, at the tender age of 10. "I was one of those weird kids that knew what he wanted to do and actually did it," he confides. "My parents built their dream house in Bankstown in the '70s but by the mid-'80s the style had completely changed. I stripped off their bamboo wallpaper and painted the house in shades of pink – so I really was designing from a young age."



Weylande Gregory 'Lava' Lamp, vintage Gucci ashtray and West Elm vase



Greg wears Tom Ford suit, shirt and black brogues

He thanks his Italian parents, who loved having a colourful, highly-patterned home, and the vibrant Aussie-Lebanese community he grew up with for his passion for patterns and layering, which has become his trademark since he launched his eponymous Sydney-based design practice in 2001. He remembers one Lebanese couple in particular, with a beautiful Edwardian home in Sydney. He reinterpreted the period, layering classic and contemporary pieces against a powder blue palette and vignettes of Fornasetti plates and tiles. "For me, the Middle East is synonymous with amazing patterns and prints, which I love to interpret in a modern way," says the designer, who's worked on bespoke villas on Palm Jumeirah and in Emirates Hills. "I also love the movement and fluidity of marble and metallics and I've used these elements in the homes I've designed in Dubai, as it goes so well in modern Arabian houses."

He's seeing more of the world in September, touring Canada, North America and the UK with his first sell-out book, *The Tailored Interior*, published by Hardie Grant. And with interior design heavyweight and close pal Jonathan Adler – who's named Greg as his favourite contemporary – writing the book's forward and opening the London and New York legs of the tour, by next year Greg will need no introduction. While he's known for colour and pattern, he's saving those topics for the sequel, he says. "I wanted to do something bigger," he adds, "and when I looked at my work it's very tailored and precise. The book is about how we tailor our clients' houses into homes and how we tailor their personality into the aesthetic."

In his own apartment, it's soon clear that he has a love for art, fashion and bold patterns; it's a kaleidoscope of sharp lines, stripes and starbursts, with a striking monochrome palette accented with pops of candy pink and yellow. "Geometric prints are my signature style; I've actually been doing it from the beginning," he says, of the clashing patterns and layers of texture on his walls and floors. The living room is carpeted in a striking triangular design called 'Tokyo' made from Tibetan wool, from his 'New Modern' range with Designer Rugs. Look up, and his walls are a gallery for his latest wallpaper range for Porter's Paints – as well as his enviable art collection. "I've just wallpapered the living room in 'Aquarius', and the bedroom in 'Iota', both black on white." he explains. "I love it; it gives the apartment more texture than the previous white walls. I do love colour and I use it a lot with my clients' projects but I wanted a monochrome colour ➤

Eye for design: Knoll's Bertoia side chairs cluster around the Minotti Van Dyck table; Greg Natale Tokyo carpet for Designer Rugs

*My whole life I have been* PRACTISING *for my career...*






Greg Natalie Iota wallpaper for Porter's Paints; Scott Petrie painting, untitled; Minotti sofa; Greg Natalie cushions for One Duck Two




"FOR ME, THE MIDDLE EAST IS SYNONYMOUS WITH AMAZING PATTERNS AND PRINTS, WHICH I LOVE TO INTERPRET IN A MODERN WAY"

*Greg Natale, interior designer*


GREG
NATALE



It was his admiration for Hicks' use of bold colour and mix of period and contemporary furniture that inspired the design that launched his career and won him his first award from the 2003 Belle Awards. Taking the pattern of Florence Broadhurst's iconic wallpaper, 'Steps', he coordinated the walls, blinds, bedlinens and artwork of his sister Sarina's apartment in this same bold print, creating something that had not been seen before in residential design in Australia. "It was a very English aesthetic done in a really modern way and totally new for Australian design," he says. "If you imagine David Hicks and Verner Panton having a baby… That got the attention of the press and it really launched my career."

Since then he's won countless awards, starred as a guest designer and judge on Australia's leading home décor television shows, The Renovators and homeMADE, partnered with many high-end retailers, and has commenced work on his first hotel project in Hunter Valley. This year, his world book tour sees him break past the reef into international waters, on a much larger scale than ever before. But it's not a case of 'sink or swim' – since the age of 10 he's made one dream after another come true, so we're expecting this designer to leave a very traceable imprint on the design map. ■

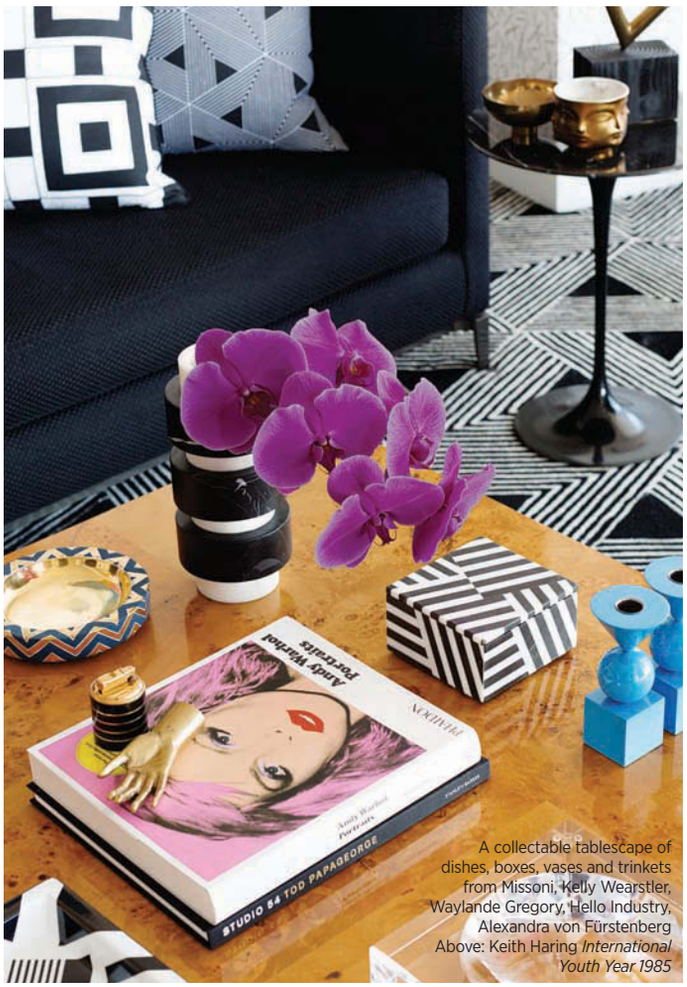
## *I've been creating* GEOMETRIC *patterns from the start...*

scheme here, with accents of hot pink. Without realising it, pink has become my favourite colour and it was the pop of my last apartment in Republic, an iconic building that's also on this street, designed by Burley Katon Halliday, who did some great things in the '80s. I bought Andy Warhol's Marilyn Monroe artwork while I lived there, and it was the starting point for the décor here. I am a big art collector and as my home gets bigger, so will the collection."

A couple of abstract paintings commissioned from Scott Petrie adorn the walls in the living room and bedroom. Here, he another passion is on display – boxes. "For some reason I love boxes," he laughs, "maybe because in order to be successful I need to be organised. I have a beautiful collection of trinket boxes in acrylic, ceramic, leather and stone."

Much of his furniture is from Los Angeles, including the gold vintage bedside lamps, Jonathan Adler's Claude Dresser and Kelly Wearstler's red Olivia Chair. "I source a lot of furniture from California because Sydney is a long way from other countries and LA is non-stop 14-hour flight, which might sound like a long time but for us it's not. I like to give my clients something different that's not on the market here, especially as many retailers import from Italy, but not America."

This raises a smile, as he admits his love for pattern comes from his Italian heritage. "My sensibility is mixing that sleek Italian aesthetic with a layered American look, especially as we really are in an age of layering. When I started my business in 2001, I was 27. I was a new designer breaking out trying to create my own look. I could see that we were coming out of a hard-edged era and that decoration and layering were the next big thing, so I started looking at designers like the late David Hicks – that man was incredible, and I have become friendly with his daughter, India, through my book."




A collectable tablescape of dishes, boxes, vases and trinkets from Missoni, Kelly Wearstler, Waylande Gregory, Hello Industry, Alexandra von Fürstenberg
Above: Keith Haring *International Youth Year 1985*



Agnès Monplaisir in one of the dining rooms, set with Frette linens and antique china. Carolina Herrera gown. Fashion editor Joanna Hillman

# LADY OF THE MANOR

*Art meets nature at Parisian gallerist* **Agnès Monplaisir's** *grand country estate*

*Words by CHARLOTTE COWLES*
*Photography by SIMON UPTON*

The first time Agnès Monplaisir laid eyes on La Paillardière, a vast country estate just over an hour by car from her bustling art gallery in Paris, she was being courted by its owner, the French property developer Christian Pellerin. "We were driving very slowly through these enormous trees, and there were fruits everywhere, raspberries and strawberries," she says. "Everything smelled so fresh, and I could hear thousands of birds. And I thought, 'if a man has a place like this, why does he need me?'" she laughs. "It made me feel very small."

Her worries subsided when they pulled up to the main house, a brick-and-stucco château swarming with ivy and surrounded by rhododendron bushes, and she felt an overwhelming sense of belonging. "I realized that I had already been there," she says with certainty. "I had visited it in my dreams." She and Pellerin wed shortly thereafter. Indeed, La Paillardière – with more than a thousand acres of rolling green meadows, glassy ponds crammed with water lilies, and forests teeming with deer and boar – is the stuff of reveries, and Monplaisir remains an adamant believer in the power of the unconscious. Raised outside Bordeaux in a relatively art-free home (her father was a banker, and her mother taught history), she had a creative awakening at the age of 13, when a family friend took her to see a Monet exhibition.

"I fell in love, and I said, 'this is my world,'" she recalls. When she was 18, she opened her first art gallery, a modest, 86-square-foot space in Paris' Bastille district. "It was very small, and I was very poor," she says, but she had great taste. "The first thing I ever sold was a piece by Luis Tomasello, but now I wish I had kept it!" (An acrylic work by the late Argentine artist fetched more than Dhs433,431 at auction in February.) "At the time I sold it for nothing. I recently tried to buy it back from the man I sold it to, who is still a good friend, but he refused to part with it."

Almost three decades – and many fabulous clients – later (Yves Saint Laurent was among her most loyal buyers, a privilege that cemented her allegiance to Opium perfume), she operates out of a ➤

HAIR: JONATHAN GEIMON FOR KÉRASTASE PARIS GREAT LENGTHS; MAKEUP: MICKAEL NOISELET; PRODUCTION: BEN FARADAY FOR OCTOPIX.FR; PROP STYLING: FABIENNE EISENSTEIN



A 16th-century Arcimboldo bust rests on the sitting room mantel



Agnès scales the main house at La Paillardière. Oscar de la Renta gown

1,700-square-foot Paris showroom in the heart of St. Germain-des-Prés. Although Monplaisir's gallery is one of the biggest in the area, her ambitions – as well as her artists' larger-than-life sculptures and textiles – have outgrown the location and she has started exhibiting works at La Paillardière, hosting clients for weekend visits and rollicking parties. "Sometimes we are hundreds, with candles and music, and dancing until four in the morning," she says. "Other times it is very intimate. We also invite artists to retreat here, to work in peace."

One cottage in particular, painted a sweet shade of pink and surrounded by rosebushes, is reserved for long-term guests seeking privacy. "It's for writers to write books, musicians to write music, or a very romantic couple – visites secrètes," Monplaisir says conspiratorially. "I often set up blind dates here, and it works. Because you cannot help but fall in love in this place." Monplaisir and Pellerin met through a mutual friend, film producer Jean-Claude Fleury, at a dinner party in Paris. "It's one of those silly stories: I didn't feel like going out, but then I went anyway and I ended up meeting my husband, and we've never been apart since," she says. Married five years ago, the couple have six children between them: Monplaisir's daughters – Margot, 26, an engineer, Laure, 24, a doctor, and Andrea, 16, a student; and Pellerin's sons – Laurent, 43, and Edouard, 42 – and his daughter, Julie, 26, a champion horsewoman who puts La Paillardière's well-appointed equestrian complex to good use.

Pellerin made his name developing some of France's biggest business districts, most notably La Défense in Paris. Knowing prime real estate when he saw it, he began buying land around La Paillardière in the 1970s. Situated near Gien, a picturesque town on the Loire River famous for its arched bridges and faience earthenware, the main house was originally built as a hunting cabin in the 18th century. It was expanded at the beginning of the 20th century by the business magnate Georges Lesieur, and again by Pellerin in the late '70s. While it is fully equipped with modern ➤

"I OFTEN SET UP BLIND DATES HERE, AND IT WORKS. BECAUSE YOU CANNOT HELP BUT FALL IN LOVE IN THIS PLACE"

*Agnès Monplaisir, gallerist*



luxuries like a sauna, gym, steam room and theatre, the structure has retained its historical charms, including cream-coloured stucco walls, white shutters, and wrought iron roof cresting.

"The house is very French because of its setting and its past," says Monplaisir. "A lot of things have been in my husband's family for over a century – the dishes, the chandeliers. It's very traditional." Of course, she couldn't help but introduce a few contemporary works by her gallery's artists, many of whom hail from Argentina, Colombia and Brazil. Monplaisir attributes her interest in South America to her father's ancestral roots in the West Indies, which acted as a gateway to the continent. (She recently purchased a beachfront property in Brazil on a whim: "I bought it online after dinner with a friend, having never even seen it in person.") A textile by the Colombian artist Olga de Amaral, with stones woven into the blue-and-gold material, was the very first piece she installed at La Paillardière. "I brought that one specifically because I like to carry the ground of South America with me everywhere," she says. Today, whispers of her influence echo throughout the house: an abstract candelabra by the French artist Daniel Hourdé stands amid the couple's antique china, and two bronze statues by the Greek-German sculptor Do König Vassilakis share the sitting room with an 18th-century Royal Aubusson verdure tapestry woven of wool and silk. The grounds, meanwhile, offer endless opportunities for Monplaisir's grand sculptures. Behind the main house an immaculate lawn provides the backdrop for *Ikaro Blu Caduto (Blue Icarus)*, a giant winged figure by Igor Mitoraj, a Polish artist whom Monplaisir also represents. Installed last year, the sculpture lies on its side as though it has just plummeted from the sky, a scattering of buttercups sprouting around one bronze muscled thigh. "I put it right there so that I could see it from my bedroom window, with the lake directly behind it," she says. Another piece by Mitoraj – a beach-ball-size eye socket with a smooth clamshell lid and an arching brow – surveys the view from the back terrace, which is flanked by 19th-century marble statues by Albert-Ernest Carrier-Belleuse. The juxtaposition between antique and modern is both complex and elegant, like gigantic chess pieces arranged in an elaborate strategy.

Despite its peaceful environs, La Paillardière is constantly bustling with activity – last summer, a huge scarlet arch by Hourdé was built into a grove of oak trees, and autumn always brings a steady stream of hunting parties – and Monplaisir savours the seasonal shifts. "I love to have dinner with vegetables from the garden, and I always sleep with the windows open at night," she says. "In the fall, when the deer are reproducing, you can hear them shouting. There is never one moment that is boring, not ever." ■



**"I ALWAYS SLEEP WITH THE WINDOWS OPEN AT NIGHT. IN THE FALL YOU CAN HEAR THE DEER SHOUTING. THERE IS NEVER ONE MOMENT THAT IS BORING, NOT EVER."**

*Agnès Monplaisir, gallerist*

The banquet table was designed by the French artisan Bernard Tellier. Roberto Cavalli blouse, skirt, and stole; Paul Andrew shoes. Right: Monplaisir with her husband, Christian Pellerin, her daughter Andrea (left), and his daughter, Julie. Dolce & Gabbana dress



Giuseppe Zanotti's metallic leather wing sandals

# ONE SHOE OUT THE DOOR

**Giuseppe Zanotti** *shares his passions for travel, elephants and shoes in his chaotic childhood home*

*Words by ANNA PUSLECKA*
*Photography by MONIKA MOTOR*

My house is as chaotic as my life. You can even say it's like some kind of map," laughs Giuseppe Zanotti. But it's just a coquetry. The apparent mess is in fact a quite thoughtful composition – an 'artistic' chaos. There are paintings and photographs standing by the wall; the rest of the space is filled with souvenirs, books, albums on fashion and art. "I think that getting advice from architects is wasting your time," says the Italian shoe designer. "I like to create the space myself; I move things all the time. Can't you see what a mess I have here?"

Giuseppe is the perfect host. He serves us coffee as we enter, makes jokes frequently and completely disarms us by asking us which blazer he should chose for the photo: the polka dot or the black one? Giuseppe has been designing for over 30 years His brand, Giuseppe Zanotti Design, celebrated its 20th anniversary in 2014. The same year he he created three capsule collections in additional to his two regular ones, opened another boutique (there are 90 in total), and travelled around the world. He has been a hard man to pin down. After five months of waiting we received an email: "I'd like to invite you to my house in the middle of November. Giuseppe Zanotti." So we flew to Milan, took a train to Rimini (with a stop in Bologne), then travelled by car to San Mauro Pascoli.

He has apartments in New York and London and a showroom in Milan, but it is this small town in the middle of Italy where he feels most at home. He was born here, but he left to work as a freelancer abroad for 15 years. In the '80s he worked as a shoes designer for Mugler, Dior, Valentino, Gianfranco Ferre and Cavalli. While back then his hometown felt a bit provincial, when he returned he he loved it even more than during his childhood, he says. "I finally understood that coming back to my roots gave me strength," he explains. "It's my aid; here I ➤




The history of 20th century fashion is neatly displayed in this galleried collection of magazine covers, including editions of *Harper's Bazaar*




Clockwise from left: Polish supermodel Anja Rubik has modelled many of the shoemaker's creations and was the face of the brand for two seasons; a bespoke design for pop star Katy Perry; a vintage camera bought from a fair; a montage of prototypes showing his signature black and gold footwear designs



can defend myself from the world. Milan is stylish, energetic – especially during fashion weeks. But living there is difficult."

After he separated from his wife five years ago, he moved to this house in his hometown. He remembered it from his childhood, playing on its grounds with his friends. He purchased the property in the '80s. "Those years were modest, without any luxuries," he recalls, "but at the same time I felt like a master of the world – not having anything I had everything. A smell from a nearby shoe factory seemed so mysterious to me that we loved to sneak around it with my friends."

When choosing his professional path, it wasn't the smell of tanned leather that influenced his decision but a fascination with women's bodies – especially their feet. With a mother a seamstress mother, he spent significant time around women, and shoes became his love and passion. Over the years he has collected over 9,000 pairs. This extensive collection includes his old designs, shoes he's acquired from his travels around the world, or rare pieces he has bought at auctions. In the future he plans to display his personal collection in an old granary, which is currently under renovation. The oldest piece, made of silver and silk, comes from the 18th century. He also has many traditional Arabian shoes, American designs from the '50s, and a small pair of shoes from China that were designed to stop Mandarin children's feet from growing. The most important pair to Giuseppe are black pumps with small heels displayed on a silver plate in his living room. "This is the first pair I ever remember," he reveals. "It belonged to my mother."

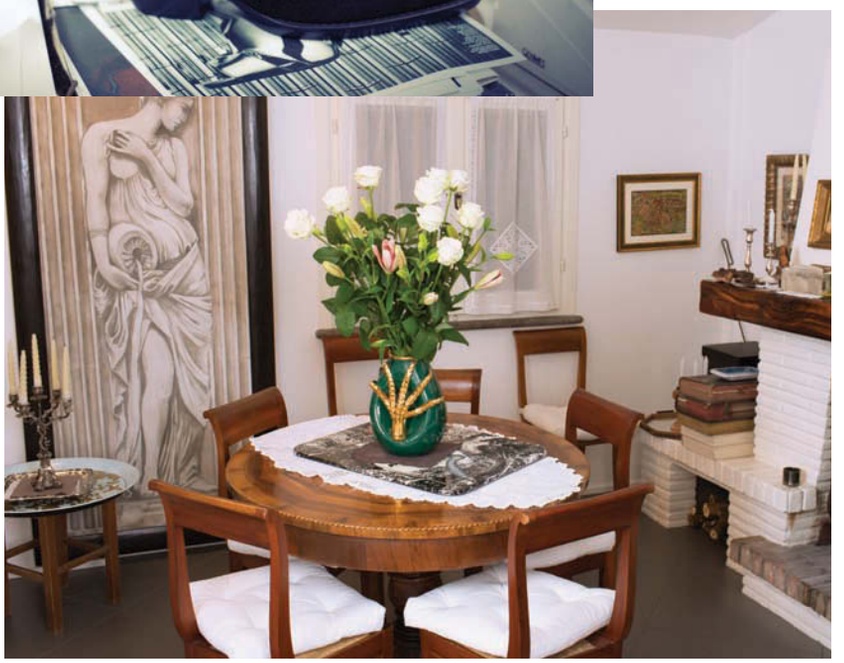
The kitchen is Giuseppe's favourite place, and why we spend most of the time here. We're drinking coffee, watching old pictures framed on the shelves: little Giuseppe, a photo from his youth, with a girl, with his wife, then with his sons. Above the kitchen hob there is a coco de mer – a palm fruit brought from Seychelles. "It resembles a bottom," he laughs. Officially, these fruits are not allowed to be taken from the islands but the child in him managed to sneak it off somehow.

Giuseppe's elephants are another collectible passion. Some years ago a beautiful Indian woman gave him his first elephant ornament saying it would bring him luck. Since then Giuseppe has been collecting them from all around the world, or receiving them as gifts. The largest elephant stands by the window; it's a masterpiece by sculptor Rabarama (Paola Epifani). "My mother laughs that if you cut a hole inside and put a ladder by it, you could keep chickens inside," he jokes.

Giuseppe has been interested in art since his childhood. As an eleven-year old he loved to paint and he drew many surreal pictures in Dali's style. At school he was excelled at drawing. "The other subjects – I'd rather not to speak about them," he says with a smile. He ➤

Above: Giuseppe began collecting photography in the '90s





Left: Giuseppe's studded cowboy boots. Below: His cosy dining room is decorated with religious and historical artefacts

enjoyed sculpture, too, and when he started designing he made his prototypes in modelling clay so he could be more precise while doing a 3D plan, a method he still uses today for his heels.

We finish our tour of his home in a room decorated with covers from all the notable fashion magazines, including many Harper's Bazaar covers. This collection cites the history of 20th century fashion and it used to belong to Anna Piaggi's husband. After her death Giuseppe received the whole collection as a gift.

Shoes, art, fashion, travelling – those are the designer's passions. But there is another – wine. "It took me half a night to put all the bottles by the wall," he says, commenting on a composition he's created according to the type of grape and its geographical region. "This is a part of culture and history – just like shoes," he laughs. "My father taught me how to differentiate between different types of grape. He used to run a restaurant and produced his own varieties and I still have some bottles from his vineyard that come from the '60s – a real treasure! My father was upset that I didn't want to inherit his business but I didn't feel right being a person who serves food.

"The most beautiful thing and the worst thing that my parents taught me is not to stop, ever," he confesses, several minutes later as he guides us to his office and factory. "I have paid a high price for my success and career. There were times when I had to spend 260 days a year travelling. My family and my children suffered a lot from that. If I could take back that time, I would have done things differently. But it is only now that I know that." On the other hand, he is very happy about his achievements. "During all those years the most difficult part was to repress my ego, because we designers like to think about ourselves as demi-gods," he laughs.

Giuseppe doesn't have a private office. The designer enjoys being amongst people, his desk remains next to the other employees. There are sketches, shoe prototypes, some junk, and a CD player in the middle. But there is no computer – he answer his emails from a phone. He describes himself as a lunatic boss. "But disciplined," he emphasises. "I'm the first person that comes to the office, and I answer work emails even on vacation."

To reset his balance, Giuseppe likes to leave and cut himself off by escaping on his boat out to sea. "My present partner works with me; I share my time and my life with her but we live separately; I need a space just for myself." he says, explaining his fondness for solitude. "It is really hard to find true love. Just as it is difficult to find a perfect pair of shoes…" ■

"I FINALLY UNDERSTOOD THAT COMING BACK TO MY ROOTS GAVE ME STRENGTH. IT'S MY AID; HERE I CAN DEFEND MYSELF FROM THE WORLD"

*Giuseppe Zanotti, designer*



A life-size baby elephant sculpture by contemporary artist Rabarama is a treasured possession

# ONE OF A KIND

**Thomas and Ewa Lundgren** *give a rare glimpse inside their Emirates Hills home, where an eclectic mix of bespoke prototypes and design classics show a family passionate about furniture*

WORDS BY ELEANOR JOSLIN. PHOTOGRAPHS BY AASIYA JAGADEESH



Ewa wears Maison Martin Margiela dress and Giuseppe Zanotti Ombre python pumps; Thomas wears John Varvatos



The living room has an ethnic feel, with hammered metal coffee table legs, metallic accents and Buddha ornaments

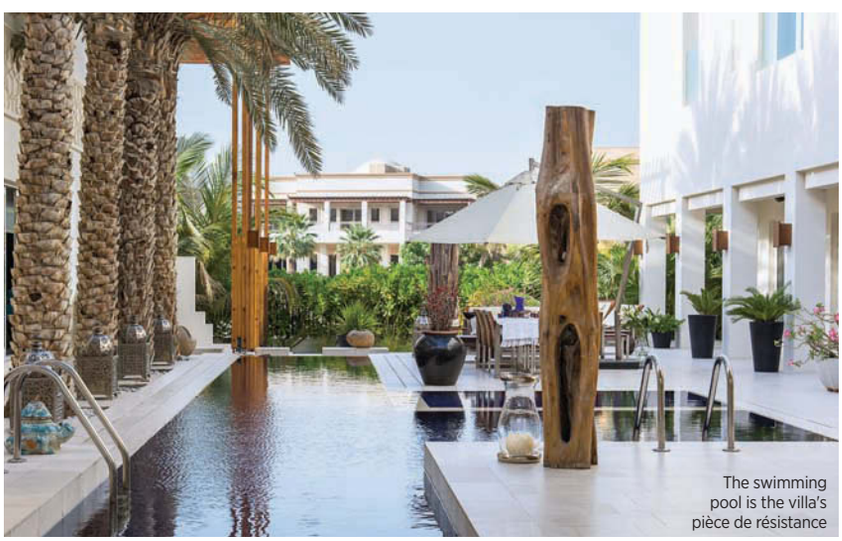
You might think you recognise this beautiful family villa in Emirates Hills. There's an air of New York loft meets Hindu temple; rock 'n' roll glamour meets cosy retreat. Buddha heads team with ivory ornaments; untreated woods pair with animal skins; McQueen-esque skulls sit in burnished metal bowls; vintage mirrors top tactile mother-of-pearl cabinets; ostrich feather throws soften large white leather sofas; sumptuous faux-fur pillows layer up on suede bedsteads. Why does this look so familiar? Because the owner is the brains behind one of the UAE's biggest success stories in the home furniture sector, THE One. While it's not surprising that much of the furniture and accessories in Thomas Lundgren's bespoke villa is from THE One and its cool sister company THE One Fusion, it might surprise you to know that much of what you see – in the villa and in store – is designed in-house by Thomas.

"Of course, our home is full of items from THE One and THE One Fusion but most of them are one-off pieces and prototypes, products that were or still are in the early stages of development," says the CEO (a tongue-in-cheek acronym for 'chief emotional officer'). "Some have never made it to production or we have changed them after we tried the prototype here first. That's what makes them special and gives them a story. In terms of our décor, we prefer having a few big pieces rather than a lot of small things. Comfort is key but so is creating a balanced layout before bothering with details like lamps, mirrors and accessories. "We lived in Kuwait, and when Iraq invaded in 1990 we lost everything. Before that, I was a collector of stuff that we didn't really need. Now we have a different relationship with 'things'. I love what we buy, but I am not attached to it like I was when I was younger."

While his three beautiful daughters Izabel Zoe, 26, Danielle, 22, and Renée, 20, have all flown the nest to study bachelor and masters degrees in California, the five-bedroom villa is now home to Thomas, his wife of 29 years Ewa, who is the design and product developer at THE One, and their fifteen-year-old dog Max. The property also has two staff rooms and a separate annexe on the other side of a stunning pool, which is fronted by an entrance courtyard.

Eight years ago the architect's design brief for the property was a simple, modern home with a free-flowing feel where the couple could entertain guests and the children could run around and play with their friends. What sets it apart from many other urban homes in the UAE is the landscaping (Thomas is always striving for originality; he derides anything that is replicated). It has been designed as a modern version of the traditional Arabic house, centred on the entrance courtyard, with the cool blue of the palm-tree-lined swimming pool stretching out like an oasis between the house and the annexe. "This is a very important part of the house, especially in the evening. It glitters and sparkles and makes the area magical. When we entertain, it is the centerpiece. However, I always joke that I have been in it just six times – and four of those were with my clothes on," he laughs.

His favourite spot is his office, which he shares with Max. Brick-effect walls, a dark wooden desk, black cabinets, a cowhide armchair and a grey Marshall radio create a masculine den, while stacks of music magazines and albums and framed photos of John Lennon are a nod to his musical side. The self-confessed 'rock star' of furniture sells his own compilations in store, some of which have gone platinum. He thrives on fresh ideas and you'll be hard pressed to ➤



The swimming pool is the villa's pièce de résistance



An attractive tablescape decorated with accessories from THE One leads to a spiral staircase and the living room



Buddhas adorn many corners of the house

get him to admit to admiring other brands; he snorts with derision when fashion labels are mentioned, fiercely emphasising that he would never be caught wearing anything from Dubai that someone else might wear. Perhaps these are scars from his IKEA days, the Swedish megastore that's to blame (or thank) for the identikit interiors of the thrifty consumer, and where he worked as decoration manager in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait until 1990.

Thomas then broke away to create something quite unique in the region in 1996: design-led, cool collections, with a luxurious look yet an affordable price tag. "I don't believe the world needs another retailer; we need a better world," he opines. He now has 20 'theatres' in eight countries, employs 725 staff, and has four branches of the brand: THE One, The One Fusion, The One Junior and – his latest venture, aiming to take on IKEA – THE One Basics. Another 12 stores are planned for this year alone, expanding in the UAE, Bahrain and Qatar, and taking on new territories like Azerbaijan. That's seriously ambitious, but then he has ambition in spades. It's been well documented that he spent a year receiving damning rejection letters from banks about his business proposal (now framed and proudly displayed in his Jumeirah office), but that only drove his determination to prove them wrong and his business plan right.

His three daughters have clearly inherited his business acumen and ambition with Izabel Zoe gaining an MBA in marketing and Danielle recently graduating with a Bachelor of Arts in Cinematic Arts Critical Studies. Meanwhile, Renée boasts a trophy cabinet overflowing with an impressive collection of swimming medals and trophies. "They all have a very good eye for fashion and décor," he adds. "I believe it is a mindset and since they have been surrounded by it all their lives it comes naturally for them. They each designed their own bedrooms in this house and also furnished their rooms in the US with THE One's furniture and accessories, which we shipped over for them." Their parents have the eastern wing to themselves, with a small office, a walk-in wardrobe and dressing room, huge his-and-her bathroom, and the master bedroom at the far end, where a waterfront balcony enjoys a scenic view of the verdant neighbourhood and bright morning sunrises.

While they dismiss other furniture brands with a roll of their eyes, here we can see that they have a keen appreciation for the classics, with an LC4 Chaise Lounge (dubbed the 'relaxing machine' when it was launched in 1928) by the balcony. Thomas' own artwork decorates the walls and several canvases remain blank or unfinished, awaiting the final creative flurry. "I'm a bit of a frustrated artist," he admits. "I have put them up to force myself to get inspired and paint on them. Inspiration does not come when you plan it, so I need to be ready when it hits me." The provocative nature of some of his mixed media canvases in the stairway and dining room would make most daughters blush. "Our walls are covered with paintings, some of which I did in the '80s," he explains. "They make our space very personal and meaningful since they remind Ewa and I of the various stages of our life together." The walls, tables and bookshelves are also a veritable album of family photographs, many of which are life-size and professionally shot. "Ewa started the tradition of sending out family Christmas cards and every year the girls and I tried to get out of it," laughs Thomas. "Today, we all look back at the collection of cards we have built up through the years and are very happy that she forced us. They each tell a different story and jog our memories about what was happening in our lives at the time."

When the girls were growing up you can imagine this expansive property would have been a hive of activity and creativity, with school friends splashing in the pool, photo shoots being arranged, canvasses being painted and furniture swapped and changed frequently. With the girls gone and Max dozing away in Thomas' office, the house is quiet and the Lundgren's are planning to move to another neighbourhood. They've had offers to buy the property fully-furnished – and who can blame them? The new owners are bound to buy from THE One anyway, and here they have it readymade. ■


The Lundgren's master bedroom, with an iconic LC4 Chaise Lounge from Cassina




Thomas' home office, furnished with prototypes from THE One

"WE LIVED IN KUWAIT WHEN IRAQ INVADED IN 1990 AND WE LOST EVERYTHING. NOW WE HAVE A DIFFERENT RELATIONSHIP WITH 'THINGS'. I LOVE WHAT WE BUY, BUT I AM NOT ATTACHED TO IT."

*Thomas Lundgren, founder of THE One*



Make going to bed an exciting adventure with a tent bed canopied with ecru cloth, Dhs6,286, Bobo Kids

# COOL KIDS

*School's out and the kids are in. From toddlers to teens, create cool kids' rooms with these new-season styles that nurture learning, sleep and play*

*Words by NAUSHEEN NOOR*
*Styling by JESSICA ROBERTS*




**Clockwise from top left:** Grey blanket, Dhs120, Pottery Barn Kids; two-piece boy's knitwear (knitted jumper with cars, top, and blue and orange bottoms, bottom), 9-12 months, Dhs715, S*uce; Melissa and Doug Take Along Tool Kit, Dhs58, Amazon.co.uk; Ragtales rabbit toy, Dhs75, Children's Lane; wooden abacus, stylist's own; large jute twine roll, dual twine reel and jute twine reel, Dhs81, Typo; wooden camel, stylist's own; Wooden Story wooden shapes, Dhs133.75 Children's Lane; farm animals from the Multi Animo Truck, Dhs225, Indigo Living; Erin UGG boots in charcoal, 6-12 months, Dhs142, Level Shoe District

PRICES APPROXIMATE

## THE CARPENTER'S CRADLE

No longer a fad for hippy mums, the organic, natural trend has become mainstream as parents search for ways to incorporate a sustainable, eco-friendly environment in their babe's nursery and bedroom. Naturally dyed materials are safe for little ones finding their teeth (and sucking on everything that comes to their curious hands), while reclaimed woods, vintage toys and a hand-me-down rocking chair evoke a wonderfully nostalgic quality to take you down memory lane.



Sanderson Two By Two, Walker Greenbank




Hampton's Whale Nursery, Pottery Barn Kids

## COASTAL CRAZE

Traditionally used in boys' bedrooms with a colour palette of navy, white and red, the coastal look gets a contemporary update with splashes of hot pink for today's style-savvy little girl. Stripes convey a sense of sailing no matter what the colour, and pink and white are perfect for your princess-turned-pirate. However, an accent of navy blue still helps to ground the theme. Create a cute sea-faring theme with white-washed woods, tactile ropes and breezy cottons, plus playful motifs of anchors, knots, starfish, whales and beach glass. Aye, aye captain.



**Clockwise from top left:** Hampton's pink and white whale quilt, Dhs520, 'H' letter, Dhs40, pink chevron fitted sheet, Dhs120, all Pottery Barn Kids; shells, stylist's own; tissue paper and marker wand from The Happy Box activity set, from Dhs200, Thehappybox.ae; rope, stylist's own; Teddy's Bear Picnic family tea set, Dhs19, Amazon.co.uk; JC Kids sandals in fuschia, Dhs255, S*uce; Billy Bunny large softies, Dhs309, Indigo Living; mermaid's tail sleeping bag, Dhs250, Wild Things DXB




**Clockwise from top left:** Light box with letters, Dhs240, Typo; Parachute Daredevil Jumper, Dhs39, Indigo Living; GI Candles, Dhs60, S*uce; card from The Happy Box activity set, from Dhs200, Thehappybox.ae; IceQubes stainless steel ice cubes, set of eight, Dhs45, Souq.com; Wooden Story box of bricks, Dhs133.75, Children's Lane; star sham, Dhs105, Pottery Barn Kids; Tyrrells Poshcorn lightly sea salted, AED10, Waitrose; paper from The Happy Box activity set, from Dhs200, Thehappybox.ae; Graaf-Reinet NEOGLO paint, Dhs28 per square metre, Kansai Paints; jigsaw and dinosaur, stylist's own; travel size Snakes & Ladders, Dhs29, Typo; crayons and paper from The Happy Box activity set, from Dhs200, Thehappybox.ae; wooden slide whistle, Dhs22, Amazon.co.uk

Room Planner double desk study by Asoral, Bobokids.co.uk




## COOL CLASSICS

**Mid-century design is unique in its ability to look simultaneously modern and classic. Subtle colours – shades of white and grey – soothe the eye while the structured, straight lines keep things neat and tidy. Mini Eames chairs add a touch of luxury (and keeps busy bees comfy while working on their homework), while the pirate rug is playful and modern. It's the perfect room for a young design aficionado.**



All Pomme Furniture, Babysouk.com

## PASTEL PRINCESS

Move away from the cliché fairytale look by ditching twee, chiffon drapes and the mini four-poster bed for a simpler, more contemporary look – no frills, no fuss. Pastel colours such as mint, peach and lavender are equally as feminine as pink and a great alternative for parents with a little more creative imagination. Mix and match with white and blonde woods for a clean, Scandinavian aesthetic that combines comfort and functionality and creates a space fit for a modern princess.



**Clockwise from top left:** floral party dress, 3-4 years, Dhs145, Savage Ware; Taylor satchel in Frankie Blue, Dhs149, Typo; teapot set, Dhs135, Pottery Barn Kids; ilovegorgeous printed headband, Dhs69, Children's Lane; VÄLBEKANT cloud self-stick notes, set of three, Dhs6, IKEA; Snow Green NEOGLO paint, Dhs28 per square metre, Kansai Paint; floral paper garland, Dhs80, Pottery Barn Kids; Early Days white shoes, Dhs252, Children's Lane; glow in the dark wand, Dhs39, Indigo Living; Heart Marquee light, Dhs119, Typo; marshmallows, Dhs25, Waitrose; Maileg bunny toy with pink dress and sweater, Dhs581, Children's Lane; set of three trinket trays, Dhs59, Typo; JellyCat Angora bunny, Dhs140, Children's Lane



# *The* ESCAPE



## THE CAPITAL OF FASHION

*With a new designer district in the heart of the city, Vienna has turned into a must-shop destination*

*Words by ELEANOR JOSLIN*





Vienna is known as the city of music, art, culture and intellect… and now high fashion. Mozart, Beethoven, Gustav Klimt and Sigmund Freud all made Austria's capital famous, heralding the city as the best place to live for their generation. Now that luxury brands such as Chanel and Prada are gracing the city with their flagship stores, it's no wonder that present-day residents are also championing the city as the best place in the world to be, propelling it to number one in the 2015 Mercer Quality of Living poll.

Always willing to broaden my horizons (and my wardrobe, in the name of research, of course) I left the Emirates to see what the Viennese were so happy about. Seven hours later I was ensconced in the newly opened Royal Penthouse suite of the Park Hyatt Vienna, touted by Forbes as one of the most luxurious hotel openings last summer. It not only has a prestigious location on the Am Hof Square in central Old Town, but the hotel was also designed in conjunction with a brand new luxury shopping complex, Goldenes Quartier – the Golden Quarter. I could feel my levels of satisfaction rising already.

The Goldenes Quartier has quickly become a destination for high-end luxury stores, not just in Vienna but for the whole of Austria. For the first time, Prada, Louis Vuitton, Bottega Veneta, Saint Laurent, 7 of all Mankind, Church's and Chanel have launched flagship stores in the country, helping to establish Austria's very own rival to Fifth Avenue, Oxford Street and The Dubai Mall.

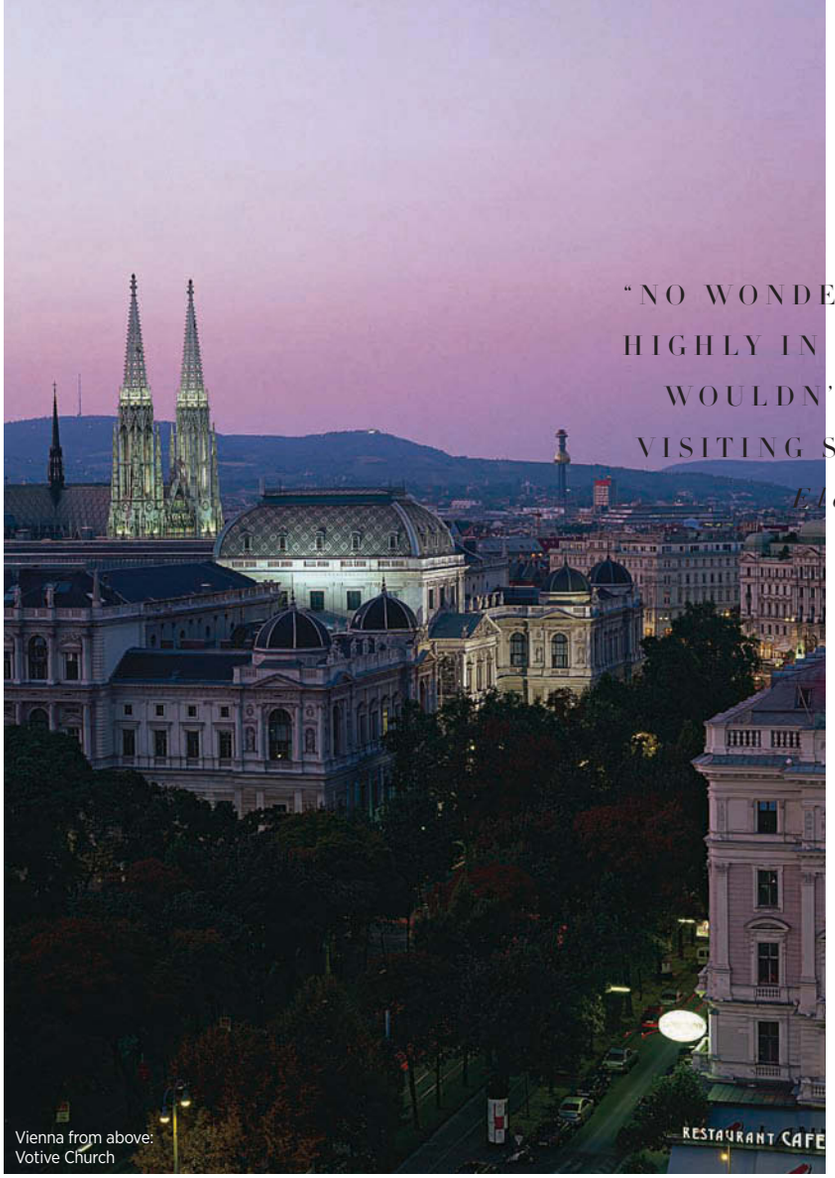
The five-star complex created by Signa – the Park Hyatt



Above, top: Looking down over the entrance to Schönbrunn Palace, a former imperial summer residence with 1,441 rooms
Above, left: The lounge bar at Park Hyatt Vienna, with colourful onyx from Iran



Left: The contemporary living room of the Eclectic View penthouse above Louis Vuitton in Goldenes Quartier
Above: The sleek dressing room in Park Hyatt Vienna's Royal Penthouse suite



Vienna from above: Votive Church

"NO WONDER THE CITY HAS POLLED SO HIGHLY IN MERCER'S RANKINGS – WHO WOULDN'T BE HAPPY LIVING IN OR VISITING SUCH HEIGHTS OF LUXURY?"

*Eleanor Joslin, Editor*

group – comprises a hotel, central retail and office space plus 14 high-quality penthouses for those looking for something a little more permanent than my week-long holiday. I took the opportunity to tour the 'Penthouse Eclectic View', which you enter through a discreet side door between Yves Saint Laurent and Louis Vuitton. Shopaholics beware, the front door is flanked by peek-a-boo windows showing off the latest arm-candy tote bags, acting as an alluring toll charge every time you enter the building. This two-bedroom apartment is the ultra-contemporary cousin of my home for the holiday, the Royal Penthouse in Park Hyatt Vienna, across the street, and has a price tag of Dhs39,350,807. It comes furnished with B&B Italia collector's pieces, artistic light installations, a Scandi-chic Miele kitchen, enough storage for you and your extended family, and the requisite mural of Gustav Klimt's *The Kiss*. A spiral staircase winding through the duplex leads you to a rooftop viewing deck, with stunning panoramic vistas across Vienna's historic cityscape, taking in the landmark steeple of St. Stephens Cathedral with its colourful geometric tiling, and down over the famous streets of Kohlmarkt and Michaelerplatz – keeping good company with the original shopping district. This central location, in the heart of the opera district, offers the perfect holiday home for small families or a party pad for young professionals.

The Goldenes Quartier complex was a challenging project says local architects Neumann + Partner. Listed as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO, they had to convert the monumental buildings into commercial outlets for the cosmopolitan consumer, while preserving the period architecture. The Hochholzerhof building on Tuchlauben dates back to the 17th century and was extended with an arcade in 1838. Neumann + Partner covered this arcade with a glass ceiling in order to create a catwalk for events whatever the weather, and also converted the storage basement beneath into the Lederleitner homeware shop.

The Park Hyatt Vienna building, originally the former Austrian Hungarian Monarchy Bank, dates back to 1913, and the cashiers' hall, director's floor and bank vault remain among its most remarkable features. It has become a city attraction in its own right since its renovation, again by Nuemann + Partner, and interior design firm FG stijl from Holland. Fashion from Goldenes Quartier infiltrates the hotel, too. Coco Chanel served as a muse for FG stijl, who modelled a beautiful mirrored, mother-of-pearl staircase on her famous reflective stairway at 31 Rue Cambon, Paris, where she could view her latest designs from every angle and watch her customer's reactions. Meanwhile, original marble columns stand sentry in the former bank tellers' hall, now a restaurant with an impressive domed ceiling and an open white ➤

## GOLDENES QUARTIER

The brands include 7 for all mankind, Alexander McQueen, Bambini, Bottego Veneta, Brioni, Brunello Cucinelli, Chanel, Church's, Emporio Armani, Etro, Lederleitner, Kiton, Louis Vuitton, Miu Miu, Mulberry, Pomellato, Roberto Cavalli, Saint Laurent, Sergio Rossi, Valentino




The Viennese Fiakers (horse-drawn carriage rides) are a traditional way to see the sights. Below, left to right: Chanel, Emporio Armani, Alexander McQueen, Pre-Fall15

PHOTOGRAPHY RIGHT: ©WIENTOURISMUS/MAXUMTOP; TOP: ©WIENTOURISMUS/POPP & HACKNER; LEFT, TOP: © WIENTOURISMUS/PETER RIGAUD



## A CITY OF ARTS

**From Mozart to museum art, the city is a historical melting pot of famous musicians, composers, artists, dancers and historical figures.**

- MusuemsQuarter: One of the world's largest cultural areas is hosting a summer of events with open-air concerts, the *O-Tone* lit fest and the *frame[o]ut* film festival
- 2015 Vienna Biennale: This year's edition is the first ever interdisciplinary Biennale, bringing together art, design and architecture, with the motto 'ideas for change'
- Winterpalais: 100 important works from grand masters, including Rembrandt, Titian and Bellotto, show the splendour of the Dresdon Picture Gallery
- The Vienna State Opera: The famous stage puts on a different opera or ballet every day; you can even stream them live from your living room; *staatsoperlive.com*
- The Vienna Musuem: Unfurl plans of the landmark Ringstrasse, from conception up to its opening in 1865 – when, controversially, very little was actually complete

St. Stephen's Cathedral, with Romanesque and Gothic architecture designed by Anton Pilgram in 1147



The Weiner Rathaus features the Rathausmann on top of the steeple, one of the symbols of Vienna

marble kitchen. Downstairs, the vault has been transformed into the serene Arany Spa, with onyx features and caves creating cosy steam rooms, saunas and massage parlours. The bank's original vault door takes centre stage; peer around it and soak up a dazzling view of Vienna's largest hotel swimming pool lined with golden ingot tiles. Indeed, the entire city appears to be gilded, glittering from the pool to the street and up to the rooftops. From the Royal Penthouse you can gaze towards Edmund Hellmer's golden statue of composer Johann Strauss in Stadtpark, the most popular monument to be photographed in Vienna and one that has starred in many tourists' selfies.

During my visit I witnessed the city's most spectacular and avant-garde of concerts, The Life Ball, also themed gold. The charity gala and ball was a star-studded event and a fantastical carnival of statuesque golden Roman emperors led by human chariots, armour-clad soldiers, ethereal ballerinas and menacing baroque gargoyles, prancing and marching down the red carpet and winding their way around the stage outside the dramatic Neo-Gothic city hall, The Weiner Rathaus, designed by Friedrich von Schmidt in the late 1800s. Charlize Theron and Sean Penn gave impassioned speeches about their respective AIDS charities, Jean Paul Gaultier staged a spectacular fashion show of pre-fall womenswear and menswear with celebrity guests, while Mary J Blige belted out some of her best hits. I bumped into her the following day at the Arany Spa gym, looking much sprightlier than I felt after dancing the night away, as I headed for a lie down on the massage table.

Who wouldn't be happy living in or visiting such heights of luxury? But, it's not just the golden statues, designer shops and the young, avant-garde heartbeat of this multicultural place that makes the city's standards of living excel beyond others. A stroll around the ornate parks of Schonbrunn Palace, Augarten, is abloom with the beautiful historic high-baroque aesthetic from the mid 15th century; a visit to the MusuemsQuarter champions Austria's rich history in the arts; an evening of opera will have you mesmerised by music and dance; meanwhile, the summer welcomes an outdoor season of events to be enjoyed in a balmy temperature.

In the warmer months, the streets are full with people sipping coffee outdoors with friends, as restaurants and cafés spill over onto the pavements. Café Hawelka, on the narrow, historic Dorotheergasse is one of Vienna's most famous artists' haunts of the '30s, serving high-art patisseries. Literatis should take note of Café Central on Herrengasse, which used to count Arthur Schnitzler, Peter Altenberg and Adolf Loos among its regulars, and is still an inspiring muse. While the Italians like to boast that they make the best coffee, I found the espresso at Fabios to be a bolstering experience during my shopping spree, and it's certainly a popular spot – for its coffee, food and its people watching, as it savours a prime location opposite Goldenes Quartier. Visitors from the Middle East should bear in mind Demel K. & K. Hofzuckerbäckerei on Kohlmarkt 14, famed for employing female-only serving personnel for the last 200 years.

Such high, exacting standards seem par for the course in Vienna, and if you haven't yet planned your summer escape I can certainly recommend this Austrian culture pot, which has all the high commercial standards of the UAE, plus quite a few extras. There's just one danger – you might get too content.

*From Dhs1,564 per night in the summer season; Vienna.park.hyatt.com* ■

## *Bazaar loves...* CAFÉ KULTUR

Café Hawelka
*Fabios*
Eissalon Tuchlauben
*Café Central*
Demel K. & K.
Hofzuckerbäckerei
*Café Drechsler*
Kleines Café





The master bedroom of the Royal Penthouse suite in Park Hyatt Vienna
Above: Louis Vuitton, The Goldenes Quartier

PHOTOGRAPHY, RIGHT: ©WIENTOURISMUS/DANIELA STALLINGER; TOP: © WIENTOURISMUS/CHRISTIAN STEMPER

# RELAX TO THE MAX

*Who says our work-life balance should remain level?* **Laura Brown** *tips the scales in favour of a relaxing sojourn to the world's best spas*



Soak up award-winning treatments at Bab Al Shams

*Best for* STAYCAY

## BAB AL SHAMS **Dubai, United Arab Emirates**

Recently winning the coveted title of *The Middle East's Leading Desert Resort* at the World Travel Awards for the fourth consecutive year, this local gem is a great weekend retreat for those staying in the country for July and August. Bab Al Shams recreates an authentic desert experience that is true to the heritage of the United Arab Emirates: the Arabic adobe-built village is set in an oasis of palm trees and narrow cobbles alleyways, while an undulating backdrop of unspoilt sand dunes creates a tranquil refuge for guests. The luxurious spa menu, which includes signature treatments such as the Blissfull Desert Rose Experience and the Desert Deluxe Duo, restores tired, sun-damaged bodies. The Satori products, made with locally sourced ingredients such as rose water and frankincense, smoothes and revitalises your skin during massages and facials. Only a short drive away from the bustling city of Dubai, this is the perfect staycation. *The Great Escape summer promotion offers rooms from Dhs490 per night; Meydanhotels.com/babalshams*



Feel at one with nature in the Osprey-Bathroom

## CHAMPNEYS TRING **Hertfordshire, England**

The UK's oldest and most revered spa and health resort, where wellness experts lead the way in balancing life and work, is just a short one-hour drive from London. New treatments are incorporated yearly and to celebrate the spa's 90th anniversary this year, Champneys has two special initiatives. In June the world-renowned resort launched their detox and wellbeing centre, offering salt body scrubs, sea mud baths, pressotherapy and vitamin injections, while a state-of-the-art hydropool will be revealed later in the year. The main restaurant will also experience an anniversary facelift with a much-anticipated transformation directed by award-winning interior designer Martin Hulbert. *Spa stays from Dhs617 per person; detox treatments start from Dhs425; Champneys.com*



Champneys Tring maintains heritage and health in one

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## SOUTHERN OCEAN LODGE **Australia**

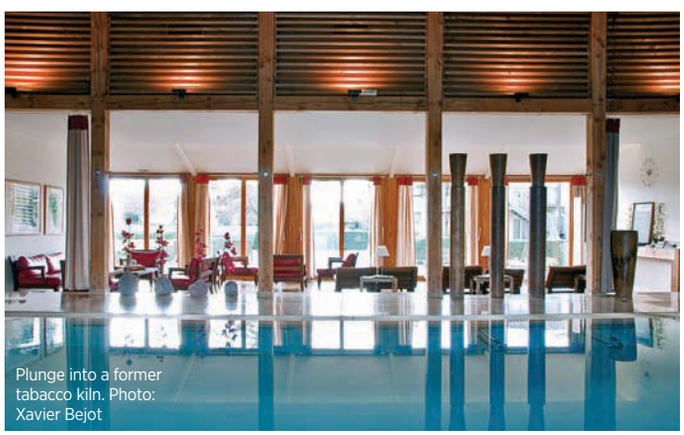
This ultra-modern edifice sits atop a verdant cliff with dramatic views of the coastline and the sound of ocean waves crashing against the beaches below. Taking advantage of the naturally resplendent surroundings, the Lodge's Li'Tya spa uses only locally sourced ingredients to soothe body and mind. The new Dihlbi Bio Active Facial treatment is named after the morning dew that glitters across the area's green cliffs. The spa's Remarkable Retreat packages include four unforgettable nights on Kangaroo Island, with a bonus night throughout the summer, a selection of lcoal gourmet treats and spa vouchers. *Remarkable Retreat package Dhs9,384 per person, twin share; Southeroceanlodge.com.au*



Feel at peace in the Aman Spa treatment room

## AMANGIRI **Utah, USA**

It is amidst the starkly beautiful desert scenery of Canyon Point that the Amangiri emerges, blending into its surroundings with subtly tinged concrete geometric planes in pink, ochre and yellow, reflecting the sunset hues of the neighbouring mountain ranges. Get close to nature this summer with Amangiri's new Palaeontology Experience, where guests join an official dig in the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument with a preeminent palaeontologist. After you've made your first Jurassic discovery, summer yoga classes with sweeping views of the valley and the Aman spa await to restore you. The treatments use natural ingredients found in the spa's surroundings: red Sedona clay with natural botanicals draws out toxins while beeswax brings vitality back to the skin on hands and feet. Walk on water across a paved reflection pool and head to a moulded floatation room that uses colour therapy as part of a meditative experience. *Rooms from Dhs4,408 per night; Amanresorts.com/amangiri*



Plunge into a former tabacco kiln. Photo: Xavier Bejot

## LES SOURCES DE CAUDALIE **Bordeaux, France**

In the rural setting of the Smith Haute Lafitte vineyards lies the sanctuary for spa devotees, Les Sources de Caudalie. Part of a hamlet of buildings and home to double-Michelin-star restaurant La Grande Vigne, the spa is a converted tobacco-kiln accessed through a charming covered passageway. The signature Gourmet Body Care treatment activates circulation using Bentonite 'healing' clay, raw sugar, honey, grape extracts, essential oils and natural hot spring water drawn from 540 metres beneath the earth. The spa is offering a series of special summer packages, from personal training sessions to detoxing rituals at the vinotherapy spa, integrating the natural benefits of grapes and the grapevine. Make sure you enjoy a night in Les Sources de Caudalie's most extraordinary suite, redecorated by the young French designer Maxime Simoëns, combined with a poolside brunch – c'est incroyable. *Rooms from Dhs842 per person per stay, minimum two nights; Sources-caudalie.com*

## THE ST. REGIS, **Doha**

A destination unto itself, the Middle East's first Remede Spa is a true urban retreat spread across 1,400 square metres, with private male and female relaxation areas, steam rooms and beautifully appointed lounges to relax after your bespoke treatment. Remede is known for their anti-aging beauty therapies that are specially tailored to each individual. In addition to the body wraps and massages, the spa offers a treatment inspired by its location-- the cooling pearl facial which uses a mix of pearl extracts and lotus stem cells to achieve a youthful glow. Check-in after Ramadan and receive a complimentary afternoon tea with the booking of every 90 minute massage. The herbal compress, with a combination of six natural compounds and warm oil, is guaranteed to melt away every residual tension in your body. *Rooms from Dhs1,020 per night; stregisdoha.com*



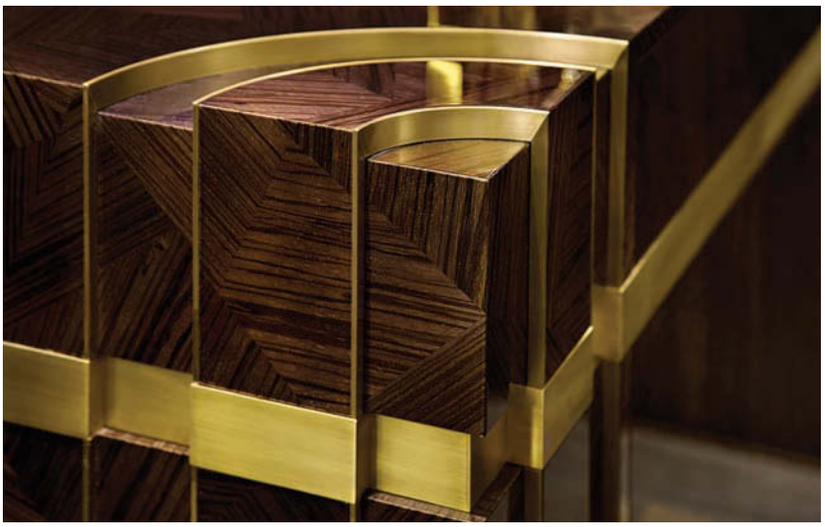
Indulge in pearl treatments at the Remede Spa

*Best for* RESPITE

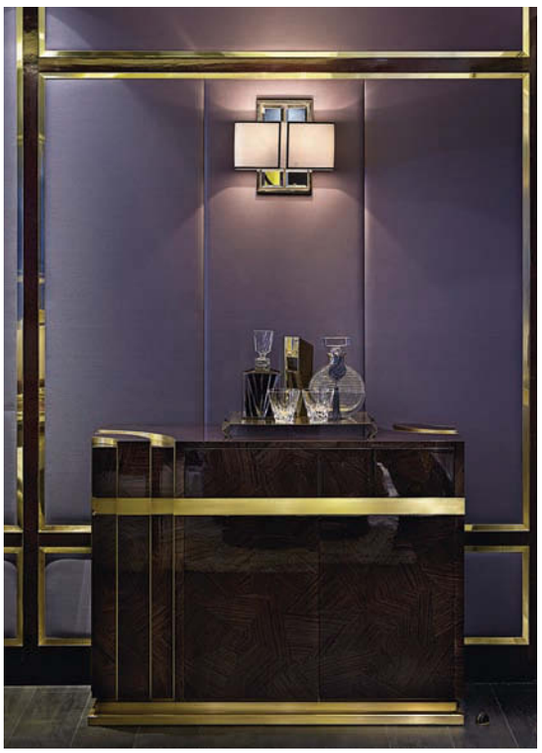


# AT HOME ON THE WAVES

*Award-winning interior designer* **Katharine Pooley** *turns superyachts into super homes for her exclusive clientele*



Below: The drinks cabinet is set for entertaining guests Right: The high-gloss wood veneer and brass accents give the furniture a polished finish



Most of the time, my clients want a home-away-from-home atmosphere on board their superyacht. Most of the yachts that we have had the pleasure to work on are of such large dimensions that they allow our clients to have similar layouts and design schemes as their properties on land. Predominantly, they will have one or two galley kitchens, a master suite, cinema room, spa, hammam, gym, guest cabin, a main salon and plenty of sundecks – of course.

The amount of design work that goes into achieving a good layout should not be underestimated. Scale needs particular attention and we study the cabins in detail to maximise the feeling of space inside and out. The first thing we do is explore how the owner will use their yachts and our designs are always tailor-made to suit their lifestyle. Will they entertain friends or business clients? How do they prefer to relax? How wil they carry out any of their hobbies?

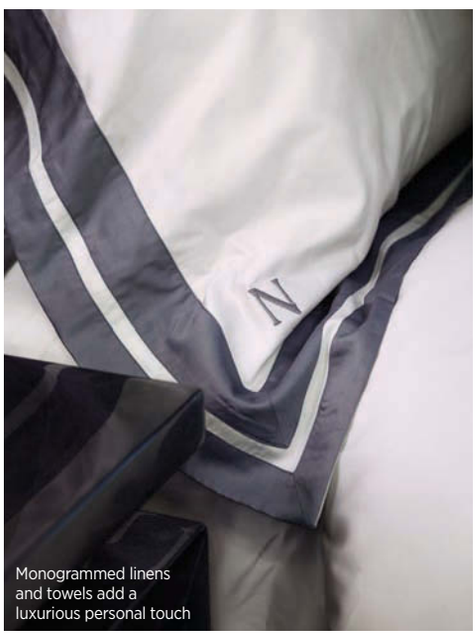
Our clientele have been British, Russian and Middle Eastern and some have been happy to push the boundaries and create a few statements, while others prefer a more relaxed look. However, all yacht interiors have to feel luxurious but be comfortable and practical at the same time. All the furniture is custom designed for life at sea. Great attention is paid to shapes to ensure that there are no sharp edges, but we achieve this in a subtle way so the aesthetic is never compromised. We also ensure that everything has concealed sea fixings as this is essential for their function on a vessel.

The final stage is to 'dress' the yacht with beautiful accessories that are tailored to each individual project. This can include luxurious bedding, towels and bathrobes with monogrammed stitching or personalised logos, plus bespoke dinnerware, unique antiques and collectible artwork on display.

One of the great pleasures of bespoke yacht design is accomplishing something that has never been done before. For one project we were asked to clad an atrium with a leaf design set within metal resin. It started from the wheelhouse deck and ran in an organic and seamless way all the way down to the guest cabins on the lower deck. Not only did it have to be visually beautiful, but it also had to integrate practical aspects such as hand rails, essential for life at sea. Both the material used and the form of the hand rail had never been used on a vessel before and the shipyard was hesitant it would work, mainly due to the intricacy of the design. However, through sheer determination and hours of design work, both from us and the shipyard, we managed to achieve what we had envisaged. The end result was a triumph, giving the vessel a unique feature which not only won several awards, but most importantly provided the owner with an exceptional yacht. ■

## *Bazaar loves...* FLOATING HOTELS

There's no need to be a guest of a Russian oligarch or dot-com billionaire, you can still experience a luxurious night in a superyacht courtesy of Sunborn's expansive floating hotels in Gibraltar and London. The five-star vessels are moored in Gibraltar's Ocean Village Marina, in the shadow of The Rock with views across the Strait towards Africa, and in Royal Victoria Dock within sight of the Millenium Dome. Enjoy floor-to-ceiling windows in every room and your own private sundeck.
*Sunbornhotels.com*



Monogrammed linens and towels add a luxurious personal touch



Agate accents and waves of silver beading are an ode to the ocean on this throw pillow

PHOTOGRAPHY COURTESY OF KATHARINE POOLEY. LEFT: ALOHASPIRIT/GETTY IMAGES



Rebecca Louise Laws and Matthew with Laws' floral taxidermy prototype for Blakes

# LONDON BLOOMING

*Branching out into garden design is the next natural step for* **Matthew Williamson**

*Words by ELEANOR JOSLIN*

From jungle-fern maxi dresses to neon-pop cushions of kissing flamingos and roses, Matthew Williamson is known for bringing nature to life in his prints. Cue his foray into garden design – a seemingly natural step for the British designer to take.

"I always look to nature first when I am designing, it's become the way I work," he says. "Whether it's a sunset, a bird of paradise or a landscape, these are all inspiring moments to capture and I like to take it a step further – and now I want to take it somewhere else."

From the catwalk to the courtyard, Matthew has transformed the garden of Blakes, an exclusive members' club and hotel in Kensington, London, into a tropical bohemian hideaway for the summer. He teamed up with floral taxidermist Rebecca Louise Laws, who created a folksy installation of dried flowers across the summer house to complement Matthew's bohemian concept. He added colour through textiles and curiosities sourced from around the world, including plastic peacock chairs from Mexico, vintage bamboo seats from 1970s Miami, a beautiful bird cage, an ostrich-feather lamp from Oxfordshire, England, and chairs upholstered in his tropical Samana fabric for Osborne & Little.

"They're really random pieces that I think look good together," he says. "I wanted to create the unexpected – a secret garden hidden in the centre of an urban environment. It's a well-heeled crowd at Blakes so it still has to function. I had a completely open brief so I could be as free as possible with my ideas, and the only limitation was enabling people to sit and eat in the courtyard. The look is luxury bohemia, but no one is going to sit on the floor," he laughs.

"I was actually inspired by a party I threw last summer. There was no magic trick to it – I simply took all my furniture from indoors outdoors and it worked really well. It looked very magical but it can easily be done, if you can rely on the weather. In Dubai that is not a problem like it is for us in England, and there really is nothing to stop you from taking a rug and some furniture outside and throwing a garden party. That was a big inspiration for the concept."

Originally designed by Anoushka Hempel in 1978, Blakes has a history of bold, colourful and eclectic design. It has become one of the world's most exclusive boutique hotels, famous for its design, service and privacy. The décor maps out Anoushka's widespread globetrotting, taking guests through the Orient, India, Egypt and Italy, with a myriad of slipper orchids, elegant chinoiserie, shimmering mother of pearl cabinets, leather trunks, red and gold damask drapes and plush velvets.

Matthew took a leaf out of her style guidebook and used curios that he's collected over the years to transform the courtyard café into an avant-garde den. "I think we have a similar style," he comments. "We share a global concept, and I think she is very aware of different countries and cultures and how to bring those influences into a look. I wanted to play on her strengths and respect what she has already done at Blakes. So the bones of my concept were always there; my job was to dress them."

*Rooms from Dhs1,399 per night; Blakeshotels.com*




'Jungle Beat', from Matthew Williamson's Samana collection for Osborne & Little



Collectibles gather in the reception room at Cerca Design House

**REFINED RUSTICS**

**Escape to the Cerca Design House, where a 17th century manor meets groovy mid-century modernism in this quirky boutique hotel in Portugal. Historic stone surfaces contrast with colourful contemporary design in the ten-room property. The profusion of glass allows guests to absorb the rustic charm of the Beira Baixa region, which boasts the highest mountain ranges in the country, well-preserved medieval villages and 12th century gardens.**

*From Dhs262 per night; Cercadesignhouse.com*

# ESCAPE

*These exclusive travel teasers have put deluxe design on the map*

# NEWS



The queen of taupe sticks to neutral shades for her new hotel range

## HOPPEN'S HOTEL DESIGNS

Celebrity interior designer Kelly Hoppen has launched a line of hotel furniture in collaboration with Gervasoni. The collection, a melding of both brands' signature styles – Kelly's classic and understated look with Gervasoni's expertise for mixing unexpected materials and finishes – will suit contemporary establishments by the coast. Runners of brushed exposed timber grain contrast against simpler stained oak, weaved rope and cord are used on lights and furniture in a simple monochrome palette, and cross-leg bases provide a striking design element.

*Kellyhoppeninteriors.com*



Get trenched: pre-fall womenswear, Espirit Dior Tokyo

*THE HOTLIST AT HARRODS... Head to Harrods in London to check out the new Superbrands floor, with an esteemed roll call of powerhouses, including Chanel, Dior, Ralph & Russo and Louis Vuitton.* *Harrods.com*



## Bazaar loves...

Louis Vuitton Alize monogram canvas suitcase, Dhs3,545, Theluxurycloset.com

COMPILED BY NAUSHEEN NOOR PRICES APPROXIMATE

# Harper's BAZAAR ART

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# ART IS SERVED

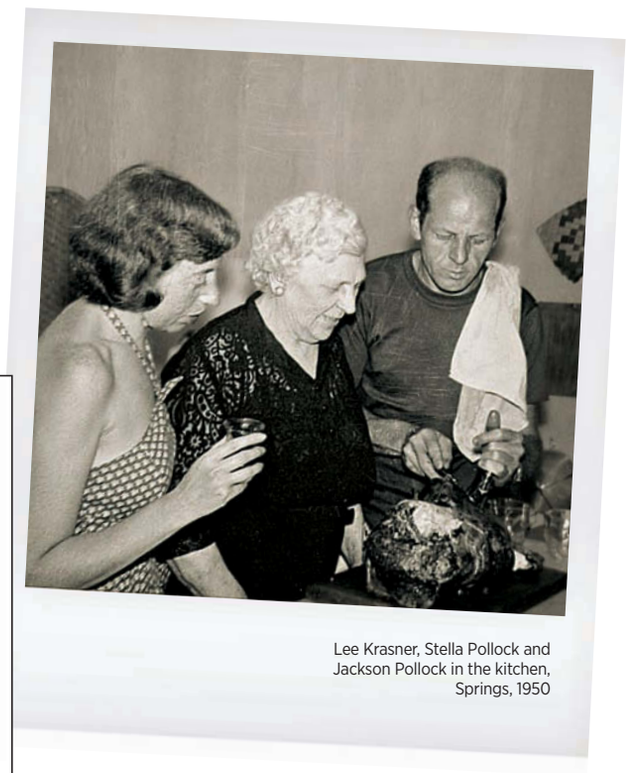
*On the sixtieth anniversary of his last paintings, Scent and Search, we celebrate the great loves of the late* **Jackson Pollock's** *life – food and family*

*Words by PRATYUSH SARUP*

PHOTOGRAPHY BY ROBYN LEA

"SOMEBODY HAD BOUGHT ONE OF MY PICTURES. WE LIVED A YEAR ON THAT PICTURE, AND A FEW CLAMS I DUG OUT OF THE BAY WITH MY TOES"

*Jackson Pollock, artist*



Lee Krasner, Stella Pollock and Jackson Pollock in the kitchen, Springs, 1950

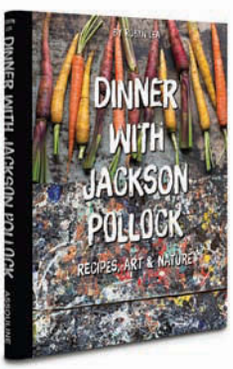
The order and restraint that Jackson Pollock eschewed in his works were meticulously embraced in the kitchen, especially when it came to baking. In her latest book, *Dinner with Jackson Pollock – recipes, art & nature*, noted photographer and writer Robyn Lea quotes the artist's wife, Lee Krasner: "I did the cooking but he did the baking," she said, of the division of labour in the kitchen. "He was very fastidious about it."

An influential abstract expressionist painter in her own right, Lee had a reputation for gathering fellow artists, journalists and critics around their dinner table. However, when they first met in New York in 1941, four years before they wed, they were both struggling artists: Lee barely knew how to boil water; Jackson was living on meals prepared by his brother Sanford's wife, Arloie.

With Sanford moving to Connecticut in 1942, Lee found she had some rather big shoes to fill – that of Jackson's mother Stella, a culinary legend known for her elaborate banquettes, and Rita Benton who virtually adopted Jackson when he first moved to New York City in 1930. "I was overpowered by Stella's cooking," she said. "I had never seen such a spread as she put on. She had cooked all the dinner, baked the bread. The abundance of it was fabulous."

Upon moving to NYC, Jackson started studying art under Thomas Hart Benton (a painter and muralist at the forefront of the Regionalist movement) at the Art Students League. Thomas' wife Rita became a firm friend, confidante, even a mother figure, to Jackson. Brought up in a small village ten miles south of Lake Como in northern Italy, she regularly laid out large Italian-style meals. That's where Jackson discovered the delights of spaghetti – and in Rita, the perfect teacher of how to cook it. Over the years their mutual love for the arts, good food and fresh produce nurtured a close camaraderie.

Building on Stella and Rita's legacy, his wife immersed herself in perfecting her kitchen skills, determined to host the most stunning of soirées designed to bolster Jackson's name in the art circle. She invited Peggy Guggenheim's assistant Howard Putzel to one of their first dinner parties, intent on introducing him to Jackson's work. Peggy would soon be one of Jackson's biggest patrons.




ARTISTIC BAKING

*Dinner with Jackson Pollock – recipes, art & nature, by Robyn Lea, Dhs183, Assouline.com*

As she further immersed herself in his world, Jackson embraced Lee's epicurean heritage. Their Blueberry Blintzes became a dinner party staple, and the couple's move to Springs, Long Island, in the early 1940s, bolstered the dish with from-the-soil freshness. While his 'drip' technique artworks glorified synthetic, resin-based paints, the couple's dinner table was laden with the freshest of fruit, vegetables and fish. During their World-War-II-rationed period in Springs, they enjoyed an abundant self-contained haven thanks to their neighbours, the Bonackers – a group of tradesmen and farmers. From local fishermen to The Hamptons' saviours of European surrealists, Lucia and Roger Wilcox, and the biggest names in New York's art scene, the Pollock's dinner table was always full of interesting guests and great food.

Some years after Jackson's untimely death from a car accident in 1956, Lee invested in a grand dinner table. Collectors, critics, curators and art historians still needed hosting, to ensure Jackson's posthumous reputation for a culinary party was as strong as his artistic legacy. ➤

## STUFFED GRAPE LEAVES

**Makes 50**

**3 cups ground lamb or ground beef**
**¾ cup rice, uncooked**
**Juice of 2 lemons**
**2 tsp allspice**
**1 tbsp salt**
**1 tsp pepper**
**2 tbsp butter**
**55-60 large fresh grape leaves**

**1.** If you're grinding the meat at home, leave a little fat on the meat. In a bowl, wash and drain the uncooked rice. Add the lemon juice, allspice, salt and pepper and mix thoroughly.
**2.** Mix the butter into the ground meat and combine with the rice mixture.
**3.** Remove the stems of the grape leaves and wash and drain, pressing out the water. Spread the leaves face down with the stem end toward you. Place one tablespoon of the rice-meat mixture across the width of each leaf. Form a compact roll by folding the stem end over the filling, folding in the sides and firmly rolling away from you.
**4.** Place some grape leaves on the bottom of a medium size pot, layer the rolls on top and weigh down with a plate. Cover with cold water up to the plate and bring to the boil, lower the heat and simmer for 45 minutes.



## LUCIA WILCOX'S BEACH PICNIC

Lucia – a fellow gifted artist and hostess – would pack a Syrian-style picnic for her husband Roger and Jackson to enjoy while she and Lee spent hours at the beach



**PARTY PANCAKES**

This recipe was scrawled in red pencil by Lee on both sides of a used envelope addressed to 'Mr Lee Krassner', dated November 27, 1944, just a year before she moved to Springs with Jackson

## BLUEBERRY BLINTZES

**Serves six**

**FOR THE CREPES**
**1½ cups all-purpose flour**
**1 tbsp sugar**
**½ tsp baking powder**
**½ tsp salt**
**2 cups milk**
**2 eggs**
**½ tsp vanilla**
**butter, as needed**

**FOR THE FILLING**
**1 cup cottage cheese**
**8 oz cream cheese**
**¼ cup sugar**
**1 egg**
**2 tsp lemon juice**
**2 tsp all-purpose flour, sifted**
**1 tsp vanilla**
**1 pinch salt**

**FOR THE SAUCE**
**2 cups blueberries**
**⅓ cup water**
**⅔ cup sugar**
**1 tbsp lemon juice**

**1.** To make the crepes: combine the flour, sugar, baking powder and salt in a bowl. Stir in the milk, eggs, and vanilla; beat until smooth. In a frying pan over medium heat, melt two tablespoons of butter then pour on a quarter cup of batter to cover the bottom; cook until slightly brown on each side and place on a serving dish. Repeat to use all the batter, adding more butter to the pan as needed.
**2.** To make the cheese filling: in a small bowl, whisk together all the ingredients until smooth and creamy.
**3.** To make the blueberry sauce: place blueberries, water and sugar in a medium size saucepan and bring to a simmer for five minutes until the syrup thickens slightly, then add lemon juice.
**4.** To assemble the blintzes: lay a crepe on a counter or board; place three tablespoons of cheese filling across the lower third of the crepe, fold in the bottom and the sides and roll firmly. In a frying pan over medium heat, melt two tablespoons of butter and place a few blintzes in the pan seam-side down to brown. Turn once to brown the other side. Serve with warm blueberry sauce.

# JACKSON'S WHITE BREAD **Makes two loaves or eight dinner rolls**

**1 cake of compressed yeast**
**1½ cups lukewarm water**
**1 tbsp sugar**
**1½ tsp salt**
**¼ cup butter, melted**
**5–5½ cups all-purpose flour**
**1 egg, beaten**

**1.** Soften the yeast in water. Add sugar, salt and melted butter and set in a warm place for 10 minutes, until the yeast is bubbly. Add flour gradually, beating thoroughly after each addition until the dough is stiff enough to knead. Turn the dough onto a lightly floured counter and knead until smooth and elastic. Cover with a warm, damp cloth and store in a warm place to rise until double in volume. Work down the dough and cover with a warm, damp cloth until doubled again. Work down lightly.
**2.** If making loaves, preheat the oven to 450°F/230°C/Gas 8. Divide the dough in two and place in well-oiled 9x5-inch bread tins. Again, cover until it has risen and doubled in size. Brush the loaves with egg wash and bake for 15 minutes. Reduce the oven to 410°F/ 210°C/ Gas 6 and bake for 30 minutes. Remove and allow the loaves to sit in the tins for 10 minutes before placing on a wire rack to cool.
**3.** If making rolls, preheat the oven to 410°F. Form the dough into eight round dinner rolls, place on a greased, parchment-lined baking sheet and bake for 15 to 20 minutes until golden brown. Remove and cool on wire racks. ■



# *L'art de VIVRE*

**Buthaina and Noor**, *the brains behind Dinner Club by No.57, create contemporary iftar settings during the Holy Month*

**WITH EACH PASSING MONTH,** we find it more and more difficult to squeeze impromptu dinners with friends into our busy schedules, even though catching up is one of our favourite things to do. We pencil in dinners weeks in advance only to cancel or postpone at the last minute – and all too often. However, during Ramadan this all changes and hosting our friends at home becomes a top priority. **RAMADAN MEALS, WHETHER IFTAR OR SUHOOR,** are simple and fun to plan if you stick to a few key things. First, invite just the right number of people to celebrate. For us, the more intimate, the better. We often invite one or two close friends or family members so they can help entertain our other guests while we're in the kitchen putting the finishing touches to the food. There's nothing better than bringing together friends and new acquaintances, so don't be afraid to mix up your guest list. **NEXT, WE PREFER TO SERVE MOSTLY HOMEMADE FOOD,** which always includes soup and savoury pastries followed by the main dishes. Most people crave something sweet after dinner during Ramadan, so there's no such thing as too much dessert. If you've spent all day in the kitchen perfecting the appetisers and main courses, you can justify ordering the desserts from your favourite bakery. Alternatively, many desserts can be made a few days in advance and stored in the refrigerator or freezer. This is especially good to do if you are hosting a large party. **THIRD, IN TRUE DINNER CLUB STYLE,** we pay just as much attention to our décor and lighting as we do to our menu. We try to avoid the traditional purple and gold silks or maroon velvets, and we stick to something simple and clean. Think about using natural materials for a more modern look, such as rattan or bamboo placemats and runners, with crisp white cotton linens. For lighting, break the fast with a comfortable level of light and switch to a softer setting as the night progresses by dimming or diffusing the lights in favour of candles.




Rustic wood and crisp white crockery create a contemporary vignette

When selecting flowers, be bold and opt for something you wouldn't normally choose. Leaves such as Italian ruscus can be just as pretty as traditional blooms, too. We always call our favourite florist, Randy from Amaryllis Flowers, and we are never disappointed. **FINALLY, GUESTS USUALLY ARRIVE DRESSED TO THE NINES** in kaftans and traditional dress and they always bring food – no one comes empty handed. If you've been invited to a friend's home but you are not much of a cook, turn up with a present instead. Our new restaurant, No. FiftySeven Boutique Café, has beautifully wrapped gift boxes with homemade essentials that are perfect for any host or hostess. Ramadan Mubarak! ■

CONTACT BUTHAINA AL MAZRUI AND ALAMIRA NOOR BANI HASHIM AT DINNER CLUB BY NO. 57 VIA INFO@NO57.CO



Rometti Lamp by Louis de Limburg Stirum, Dhs14,484, Cities



Sunrise Glow lantern, Dhs90, Fiore Rosso



Global Views Wild Fire charger plate, Dhs400, Nakkash Gallery



Images D'Orient placemat, Dhs225, Bloomingdale's Home



Eichholtz Cushion, Dhs500, Nakkash Gallery



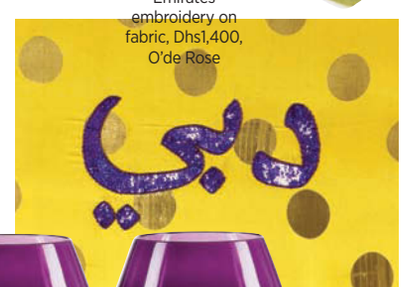
Fornasetti Profumi malachite scented candle, Dhs1,739, desertcart.ae



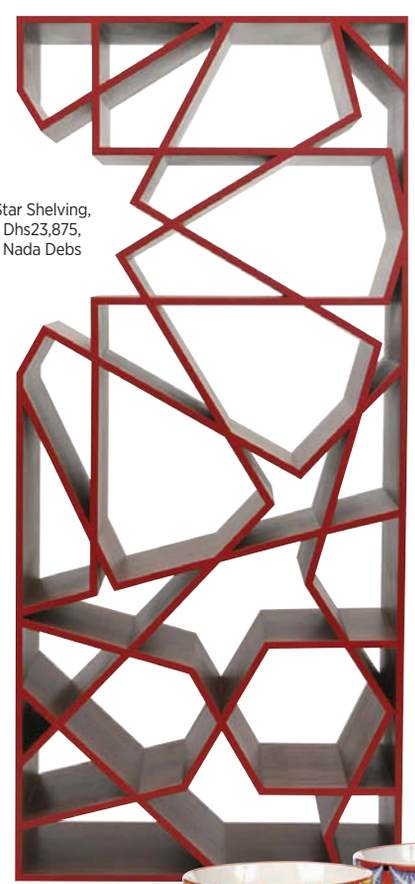
Bradburn Pot, Dhs1,600, Bloomingdale's Home

# EID MUBARAK

*Make the festivities of Eid fun with acid colour pops and quirky calligraphy*



Emirates embroidery on fabric, Dhs1,400, O'de Rose



Star Shelving, Dhs23,875, Nada Debs



Poetry napkins, Dhs264 set of four, Silsal Desgn House



Waterford Elysian stemware, Dhs2,500, Bloomingdale's Home



Romero 2D cylinders, Dhs259-415, Silsal Design House



Polspotten Hippy Bowls, set of four, Dhs174, The Odd Piece



Arabesque seating, made bespoke, Nada Debs

COMPILED BY ELEANOR JOSLIN. PRICES APPROXIMATE



## THREE STARS, TWO VENUES, ONE CHEF

At last, celebrated triple-Michelin-star chef Jean-Georges Vongerichten has made his Middle East debut with a duo of eateries at Jumeirah's Four Seasons Resort Dubai – JG Dining Room and JG Kitchen. The former caters to the fine dining crowd with lamb chops grilled with a smoked chilli glaze, lobster summer rolls with sriracha dip, and black truffle fontina pizza, while the latter offers a casual à la carte menu. A melt-in-your-mouth caramel shortbread wrapped in white chocolate is sure to become a signature. *+971 4 270 7777*

# TOP TABLES

*The best restaurants, cafés and iftar offerings adding culinary intrigue to the dining scene*




Organic Rose White tea, Dhs38, Avantcha

## TIME FOR TEA

Homegrown Avantcha launched its first tea tasting at The Sum of Us, Trade Centre Area, expounding its avant-garde approach to the luxury tea market. A selection of the finest leaves and herbal infusions from around the world, including Japan, Ceylon, Kenya, Egypt and Germany, whetted our appetites for the delicious bites from the venue, undoubtably one of the hottest cafés in town. *+971 56 445 7526*



The arty interiors of La Cantine du Faubourg

## IT'S CHIC TO SHARE

Known for its super-chic take on the sharing concept, Paris' La Cantine du Faubourg has opened its Middle Eastern outpost at Jumeirah Emirates Towers. Swathed in delicate white chiffon and a predominately light aesthetic, the restaurant is brought to life with ultra-cool graffiti walls – created by the hands of the very craftsmen and trade smiths that gave the erstwhile gym an A-list makeover. We recommend starting your evening with a delicate sea bass ceviche, and end it on a high note with chocolate praline cream while the in-house DJ pumps beats till late. *+ 971 4 352 7105*

## Bazaar loves...



Softshell crab shawarma at Qbara

One of the coolest venues for Arabic cuisine, Qbara in Dubai Healthcare City, has a full-course Ramadan menu with a modern international twist. Break the fast with a scoop of smooth butterbean 'crush' dip with feta and zaatar, dolloped onto crispy lavash bread, or sup on the chicken and vermicelli soup with Iranian saffron. Other highlights include the main course of grilled Chilean seabass, or go for a more traditional slow-cooked lamb shoulder, sourced from Wales, one of the world's best producers of succulent lamb. Available from sunset, Dhs245 per person. *+971 4 709 2500*



OUR ED'S PICK

*One of our favourite spots for a relaxing weekend staycay, The St. Regis at Nations Tower in Abu Dhabi, has a delicious choice of restaurants to tempt you to a treat or two – it is the weekend, after all. Our top spot for an evening bite is The Terrace on The Corniche, which has the best seafood in the capital, from Wednesday's chef speciality of fish and chips to fresh crab claws and lobster tails on Fridays.* *+971 2 694 4553*

PRICE APPROXIMATE



Belmont kitchen island in mint, designed by Bill Eastburn, Dhs1,833, Mall of the Emirates

### COMPACT KITCHENS

**Small kitchens are a bane to many apartment owners in the UAE, but they needn't skimp on design and functionality thanks to the cute and compact Belmont kitchen island, which Crate and Barrel has launched for the summer. We love the wheels, making it easy to create space when it's not in use.** ***+971 4 399 0125***

### EID AL-FITR

Let the festivities of Eid shine across table with Tanagra's Ramadan range of crockery and tableware. The company has partnered with Bernardaud, Lladro, L'Objet and Versace to create a sophisticated collection embellished with gold, while Christofle's silver and wood pieces add a contemporary touch. *+971 4 341 1084*



# ENTERTAIN

*Get caught up in these tantalising titbits of foodie fare*

# NEWS



### DIM SUM TO YOUR DOOR

**Chinese fine dining is now available on your doorstep with Royal China Kitchen's new delivery service. Choose from the restaurant's delicious dim sum selection, or classic dishes such as Peking duck. All the food is MSG-free, and the kitchen uses the same high quality of ingredients as the DIFC fine-dining venue. Residents between Downtown and Bur Dubai can enjoy the service immediately, with other areas following suit very soon.** ***+971 4 207 9989***



### DESIGNER DINNER PARTIES

Even the most seasoned of hosts can get stressed at the thought of cooking for a crew. Fortunately, Cavalli Caffè has launched an exclusive catering service where chefs from the popular restaurant cook for any occasion, from a small dinner for four to a banquet of 100. Its new Roberto Cavalli chocolates make for elegant Eid gifts at iftar gatherings. Wrapped in his distinctive giraffe or zebra prints, the flavour selection includes sesame, chilli pepper, gianduja cream and salt. *The Beach, Jumeirah Beach Residences, +971 52 957 0348*




*Bazaar loves... A shot of Red Dot. The coveted Red Dot award for high design quality has been won by Alessi's Ossidiana (Obsidian) espresso coffee maker, which debuted in the autumn catalogue last year. alessi.com*

COMPILED BY ELEANOR JOSLIN AND NAUSHEEN NOOR. PRICE APPROXIMATE



Actress Nargis Fakhri



Jean-Georges, David Hasselhof and Nargis Fakhri with friends.



Ximena Sabatini and Jenna Karrenbelt

Hala Matar and Virginia Iskander

# FINE DINING

Triple Michelin-star chef Jean-Georges Vongerichten jetted into town for the opening of his first restaurants in the Middle East – he has two at the Four Season Resort Dubai, Jumeirah. He brought along some famous pals including David Hasselhof, Nargis Fakhri and a bevy of Wilhemina beauties.



Anna Christina Schwartz and Melody Le

Bea Alborch



Jessica Chudasama and Vesna Vrankovic

Lauren Mellor and Nicole Meyer



Ayman Fakoussa and Basmati

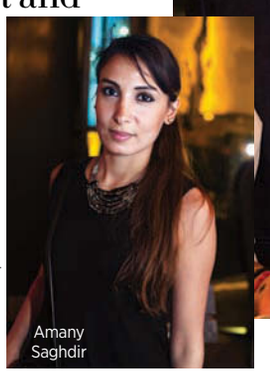
# ON THE MOVE

Cities hosted a solo exhibition by Lebanese artist and furniture designer, Nayef Francis. Titled *Undo, Move, Construct, Repeat*, the pieces were created for the needs of today's perpetually transient global nomads.





Above: Siham Salloum
Right: Tala Ardalan



Amany Saghdir



Nayef Francis

IMAGES COURTESY OF CITIES. TOP: AJITH NARENDRA



Mariam Rod, Sheida Babareza, Din Zahran

Meredith Damouni and Kat Lebrasse

# THE FINNISH MINE

The Emirate's style set enjoyed a Scandinavian-inspired dinner courtesy of Marimekko. Swings replaced chairs at the table, which was decorated with the brand's colourful crockery and linens.



Ola Farahat, Dima Sheikhly and Rania Fawaz





Sanaz Aksari, Lubna Mobied, Noor Tehini and Alamira Noor



Ruth Bradley with Tala Samman



Kilim designer Taher Asad-Bakhtiari



Mohamed Al Borno, business development manager at d3



Khaled Sharan and Ceebo Shah, Creative Clinic

# FASHION FLAIR

When *Esquire* celebrated the Best Dressed Men of the UAE at the Rosewood Hotel, Abu Dhabi, they found some of the region's leading men from the world of design had style in the fashion stakes, too.



Elie El Mir, MD of Atec Water Design



Omar bin Khediya, founder of O Concept

PHOTOGRAPHY BY ETHAN MANN. TOP: IMAGES COURTESY OF MARIMEKKO



Roberto Rella and Nicole Purin

Bianca Ellis and Birute Brandt

Franco, Lisa, Charbel, Natalya, Houri and Dr. Jocelyn

# PERFECT HOST

Roberto Rella opened his latest restaurant and lounge, TRE, in the Radisson Royal Hotel, Dubai. Spread across three floors, it's the ideal destination for epicureans and hedonists. alike.



Fernando Oyeah, Gigi Bouffet and Baha Shakhshir



Sheida Babareza

Talia Fin

Fabrizia Badesso

# ON THE SCENT

Kuwaiti perfumer, Mohamed Ne'emah, was in town to celebrate his latest unisex fragrance, Jadis, at the Ritz Carlton Jumeirah Beach Residence.



Ayman Fakoussa, Rania Kfoury, Dipesh Depala

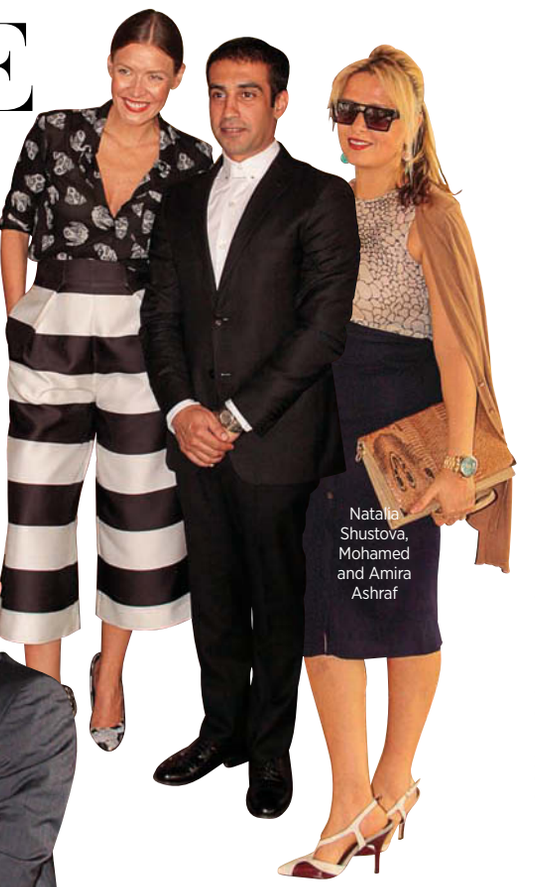
Maz Hakim

Mohammed Ne'emah and Anees Abdul



Frennie Seier

Amine Rohan



Natalia Shustova, Mohamed and Amira Ashraf

IMAGES COURTESY OF NE'EMAH. TOP: RUEL PABLEO

# FLAVOUR FARE

The annual Jumeirah Restaurant Week kicked off at one of Dubai's most impressive locations, 360. Here, guests enjoyed bites from the participating restaurants' set menus while taking in panoramic views of the sea


Ajay Thomas, Charlotte Ringrose, Pamella De Leon and Rana Shiblaq


Ali Serkal, Victoria Toma and and Christian


Laura Davieson and Peter Davieson

Christina Sang




Hannah Power

Sophie Alexander


Lucy Melts

Jaeda Star and Heidi Raeside

# DESIGN HUB

The Association of Professional Interior Designers (APID), hosted a cocktail event at the Capital Club for the unveiling of the APID Design Hub, which will open in Dubai Design District later this year


Linda Merieu, Lina Zainaldin and Natasha Carlin

Cristiano Baccianti, Aya and Wajih Nakkash


Rasha al Khatib and Tom Mason

Lisa Sicre and Laurence Delhan

PHOTOGRAPHY BY LESTER APUNTAR

# Harper's BAZAAR

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Rometti ceramic high heel boot with Swarovski heel, in collaboration with Chantal Thomas price, Dhs3,997-5,595, Cities

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# MY DESIGN DNA

## **Gianni Sharrouf,** *director at Obegi Home, has design joie de vivre*

**What truly inspires me** is our world's beautiful diversity as well as the struggle of those who strive to live with dignity. **My pride is my family** and the love we have for one another. I feel blessed every time I watch my wife and our four kids around me. **What I like the most about my job** is the constant and challenging interaction I have with the design community in the UAE and abroad, as well as sharing my clients' passion for elegantly furnished interiors. **When I think about design icons,** I realise how many designers have contributed, each in his or her own way, to shape how we live and work, with functional objects that are aesthetically appealing. **I personally like the modernists,** who dared to challenge the early perceptions of architecture and design. **My home in Jumeirah Beach Residence has** contemporary-style furniture from various brands. Most importantly, it looks and feels warm and welcoming. **To pick my favourite furniture brand,** I have to turn to Obegi Home, which carries a fine collection from the likes of Baker and Bulthaup; however, my personal preference goes to the Italian furniture brands, such as Giorgetti, Poliform, Flexform, Ceccotti, Moroso and Baxter. I think Italian furniture design has a 'je ne sais quoi' about them that makes them more appealing. **My favourite fashion brands** are Tod's and Prada for shoes, without a doubt. My ties are mostly from Hermes while some of the best cut suits I have are Giorgio Armani. **My wardrobe** is tidy and organised when my wife is around. In the summer when I'm by myself, half of my clothes are spread around the house! **The best advice I can offer is** to be yourself and to always have something to look forward to.

GIANNI'S TOP PICKS



1



2



3 4 5

PRICES APPROXIMATE

**1. Flexform Crono armchair, Dhs25,000, Obegi Home;** Antonio Citterio has supervised the entire Flexform collection for 40 years, and Crono is part of the 2015 range, which exemplifies mid-century modernist elegance **2. Sebastian Herkner Pipe side table, Moroso;** The Pipe range prototypes were unveiled at this year's Salone del Mobile **3. Baxter Chester Moon sofa, Dhs114,000, Obegi Home;** designed by Paola Navone for Baxter, this sofa is a beautiful example of quilted upholstery, in this summer's hottest colour **4. Giorgio Armani SS15;** feel tailored to perfection with a Giorgio Armani suit, Gianni's favoured designer **5. Penny loafer, Dhs3176, Tod's;** the shoe of choice for the family man


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